FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Middle East & North Africa

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'ARAFAT SAID TO WANT PLO CONTACTS WITH CAIRO

NC030958Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0916 GMT 3 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 3 January--The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH today publishes a message which, it says, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has sent to PLO members in Cairo. AL-JUMHURIYAH says that in his handwritten message Yasir 'Arafat asked the PLO members to maintain contacts with the Egyptian authorities and to maintain full relations with the Egyptian Government. The paper also says that 'Arafat has asked the PLO members to attend any meeting held by the Arab League regardless of the decision to boycott the Arab League adopted by the Tripoli conference.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that in his message 'Arafat has revealed a number of highly important and serious secrets, including:

1. That he was under severe terrorist pressure, reaching the point that he was threatened with assassination and physical liquidation if he went to Cairo.

2. That 10,000 armed Palestinians in southern Lebanon would be in danger of complete annihilation if he cooperated with Cairo.

3. That the PLO Central Council has been informed about two assassination attempts against him last month.

4. That he admits that the Tripoli conference did not provide anything new for the Palestinian cause, nor did it provide an alternative.

In his message, 'Arafat also says: We hope that Cairo will realize these facts and appreciate the pressures we are being subjected to by the two wings of the Ba'th Party and the communists and we hope that Cairo will give us time and a chance. AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that a number of Palestinian merchants in Cairo have received leaflets warning them against continuing to support the peace initiative and threatening to kill them. The leaflets were signed by the PLO security section.

PLO DENOUNCES CARTER STATEMENT ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE

JN301225Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Dec 77 JN

[Text] The PLO has announced that U.S. President Jimmy Carter's latest statement on the Palestinian issue is considered an act degrading to the Arab nation, one which disregards its potential and which strictly defies resolutions of the world community regarding Palestine. In commenting on these statements, the Palestinian news agency [WAFA] stated: The Washington government is trying to exterminate the Palestinian existence in order to impose Zionist-U.S. capitulatory conditions on the Arab nation. WAFA further said that statements of Carter and his national security adviser indicate a strategic commitment to circumvent the PLO with the aim of liquidating it.

The comment said that these statements are a practical translation of the scheme aimed at imposing political and economic domination on the Arab area and an assertion of imposing U.S.-Zionist conditions on the area by making use of the capitulatory policy of the As-Sadat regime, which has left the affairs of the country at the disposal of the enemies.

WAFA says that the PLO, proceeding from this stand, stresses its adherence to its charter and the resolutions of its National Council. The PLO also stresses that the substance of Arab confrontation to this scheme on the popular and official levels lies in threatening U.S. interests in the area and escalating the struggle against this scheme.

PLO SPOKESMAN SCORES CARTER, BRZEZINSKI STATEMENTS

JN3117347 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 31 Dec 77 JN

[Text] Brother Muhsin Abu Mayzar, official spokesman of the PLO Executive Committee, has commented on the recent statements by the U.S. President. He said these statements clearly confirm the PLO's correct assessment of U.S. Middle East policy--that it is based on the attempt to enforce a U.S.-Israeli settlement at the expense of the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights, Arab rights and the gains of the Arab liberation movement.

These statements, he added, constitute a challenge to international legitimacy and the UN resolutions which have acknowledged the national and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, above all their right to return to their homes and to establish their independent state on their national soil. The Carter statements also constitute a challenge to the Arab nation, which has declared its commitment to the resolutions of the Algiers and Rabat summits and its absolute adherence to the need to end Zionist occupation of all Arab territories and to achieve the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative.

Abu Mayzar added: U.S. policy toward the PLO as disclosed by the statements of President Carter and his national security adviser Brzezinski have revealed their true hostile intentions against the Palestinian Arab people and the Arab nation. The PLO, while confirming the inevitable failure of U.S. policy, holds this policy responsible for the dangers arising from the continuation of the imperialist course, which runs counter to realities in the Middle East.

Speaking about the visit a PLO delegation headed by Brother Abu 'Ammar paid to Yugoslavia, Abu Mayzar said this visit has clearly shown that Yugoslavia stands by the PLO, the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the just Arab struggle against Zionist occupation. He added that the delegation explained to the Yugoslav leaders the dangers of the policy President as-Sadat is pursuing, with the backing of the United States, to the Arab nation, the nonalined nations and the world liberation and progressive forces.

VOP REPORTS ASSASSINATION OF WEST BANK OFFICIAL

JN0315057 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arabic World 1400 GMT 3 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Palestinian revolutionaries have carried out the death sentence against traitor Bajis al-Ja'bari for dealing with the Zionist enemy and supporting As-Sadat's capitulatory [illegible]n. One of our revolutionaries fired several shots at the above-mentioned agent [illegible]ed him on the spot, since he was one of those who took part in assassinating [illegible] Yusuf Matu), chief editor of the paper AL-FAJR AS-SADIQ. The revolution pledges to follow traitors and agents everywhere.

Freeze On Sentences Asked For

NC0308547 Doha QNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 3 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 3 January--Quoting an authoritative Palestinian source, the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB says today that a number of dignataries from the occupied territory have appealed to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to freeze the decision recently adopted by Fatah to execute 34 citizens of the occupied territory for dealing with the Israeli authorities.

The paper adds that these dignitaries, who are close to the PLO, intervened after a large number of these agents contacted them and promised to stop their dealings with the enemy and to support Palestinian action inside the territories.

U.S. REPORTEDLY TO HOLD TALKS WITH PALESTINIANS

NC041023Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 4 January--Citing reliable American sources in the White House, the Cairo magazine AKHIR SA'AH says today that the U.S. Government has agreed to hold secret talks with moderate Palestinian leaders in the PLO to surmount the difficulties in the way of the emergence of a Palestinian entity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

AKHIR SA'AH also says that it has been mentioned that the "U.S.-Palestinian" secret talks will begin after U.S. President Carter's return from his current tour. Citing the same sources, the magazine says that Carter still insists on his stand regarding the right of the Palestinians to a national homeland and sees a need for this homeland despite Israeli objections. The sources also say that Carter is expected to play a major and effective role in changing the Begin government's hardline stance in the peace talks, especially on this particular point.

The magazine further states that these sources have affirmed that the expected U.S.-Palestinian talks will give the peace talks a considerable boost on the way to a comprehensive settlement for the Middle East conflict, which is what the United States wants.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SOVIET LEADERS

JN040652Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0330 GMT 4 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Beirut--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat yesterday received a message from the Soviet leaders. WAFA reports that the message, whose contents have not been disclosed, was conveyed to 'Arafat by the Soviet ambassador in Beirut, Aleksandr Soldatov. WAFA adds that 'Arafat and the ambassador discussed the latest developments in the Arab area and bilateral relations.

ICATU SENDS CABLE OF SUPPORT TO 'ARAFAT

JN011050Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 January--Arab workers have affirmed their continued support for the Palestinian revolution in its confrontation with all forms of plots and capitulatory solutions. This came in a cable sent by International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU] Secretary General 'Ali Husayn al-Mawli to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution. Al-Mawli asserted the continued support of the Arab working class for the valiant Palestinian revolution and its acknowledgement of the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The ICATU secretary general asserted that the Palestinian revolution and its masses throughout the Arab arena are capable of achieving victory, returning the Palestinian people to their homeland and setting up an independent Palestinian state.

QATAR

AMIR RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM AS-SADAT

NC032010Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 3 January--Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, today received a message from President Anwar as-Sadat. The message was conveyed by Egyptian Ambassador to Doha Salih Zaghlul.

The Egyptian ambassador said after the meeting, which was attended by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and Qatari defense minister, that the message deals with the latest developments in the Middle East situation, the Arab cause and the Egyptian moves in the next phase for achieving those resolutions of the summit conferences related to the Arab cause.

The Egyptian ambassador added that President as-Sadat's message to Shaykh Khalifah is within the context of the constant consultations between President as-Sadat and his brother kings and presidents of the Arab states regarding new developments, exchanging views with Arab leaders and acquainting them with current developments.

SAUDI ARABIA

PRESIDENT CARTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

LD031450Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] Continuing his current tour, His Excellency U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Mrs Carter arrived in Riyadh at 1610 today from New Delhi on an official visit to Saudi Arabia. His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz headed the welcoming party for the high-ranking guest at Riyadh airport. U.S. President Jimmy Carter was also wlecomed by His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of the Riyadh district; and Shaykh 'Abdullah Mali, mayor of Riyadh city.

His Majesty King Khalid and His Excellency President Carter exchanged speeches of welcome. His Majesty King Khalid said: Mr President, we welcome you and thank you for your good endeavors to find a just and lasting solution to the Middle East problem. I wish you, Mr President, a happy stay in this friendly country.

His Excellency President Carter replied to the greetings of His Majesty King Khalid: Peace be with you. As Your Majesty said, finding a just and lasting solution to the Middle East problem is one of the things which we are trying to achieve. The U.S. President then referred to the first meeting held between two great leaders of the two friendly countries, namely, the meeting between the late King 'Abd al-'Aziz, may God rest his soul, and His Excellency the late U.S. President Roosevelt.

His excellency the president went on to talk about the firm relations which link the kingdom and the United States, and he said: The relations which link our two countries are strong relations which are not subject to severance. He thanked His Majesty King Khalid for the good welcome he was accorded on landing and said: I feel as if I am among my own people. Your Majesty, I am pleased to be in your great country and thank you.

After President Carter had concluded his speech he and his majesty the king shook hands with the leading figures who had come to welcome him, including royal princes and ministers. The high-ranking guest then went with His Majesty King Khalid to the royal lounge at the airport, where they rested for a short while and drank Arabian coffee. Later his majesty the king and his excellency the President left Riyadh airport for An-Nasiriyah Palace, which has been prepared for his excellency. The procession was greeted in the capital's thoroughfares by the dense crowds lining the streets to welcome the high-ranking guest.

Official talks between the two sides will begin at 1730 at An-Nasiriyah Palace.

Carter Meets With Leaders

LD031840Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The first round of Saudi-U.S. talks began at 1730 today at the guest palace in An-Nasiriyah under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his excellency the U.S. President, Jimmy Carter.

Present on the Saudi side were: His Royal Highness Deputy Prime Minister and Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; His Royal Highness Second Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; His Royal Highness Defense and Aviation Minister Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal; Dr Rashad Fir'awn, his majesty's adviser, and Ali Alireza, Saudi ambassador to the United States.

Present on the American side were: Cyrus Vance, the United States secretary of state; Zbigniew Brzezinski, the President's adviser for national security affairs; John West, United States ambassador to the kingdom, and Alfred Atherton, the assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs. The round of talks ended at 1830 hours, lasting 1 hour.

The White House press spokesman described the talks as cordial and useful, in the interest of both friendly countries. He said that the talks dealt with the (?continuation) of efforts to bring about a just peace in the Middle East--the peace desired by any reasonable person in the world.

Private Talk With Fahd

LD032130Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD

[Text] President Carter this evening received Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, heir apparent and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, at his residence in the An-Nasiriyah guest palace, for a private talk.

The SAUDI NEWS AGENCY reports that during the meeting the subjects of interest to the two countries and the efforts being exerted by the U.S. Government and the kingdom to establish peace in the Middle East region were reviewed. Political observers have described the visit of President Carter to the kingdom and his meetings with officials as being of a very high degree of importance, especially at this stage for the Arab world--indeed and the whole world. Moreover, everyone is looking forward to the results of this visit with extreme interest.

Foreign Minister's Statement

LD031840Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal has stated that the importance of President Carter's visit is that it is the second visit by a U.S. President to the kingdom and thus the visit assumes a special importance. The importance of the visit is also that it is the first visit by Carter to the kingdom and the first meeting between King Khalid and President Carter.

In a statement to the SAUDI NEWS AGENCY, Sa'ud al-Faysal said that the visit takes place at a very crucial period for the Middle East situation and everything connected with it. He reaffirmed that the talks will concentrate on the Middle East issue. He also said he believed the talks will give the opportunity to King Khalid and the U.S. President to review the situation in general with regard to bilateral relations and international conditions all over te world.

Khalid Hosts Dinner

LD031852Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD

[Text] King Khalid this evening gave a dinner party at Al-Ma'dar palace in honor of the U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his delegation. A number of their royal highnesses attended; among them were Crown Prince and Deputy Premier Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; Prince Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; ministers, and senior officials and army officers.

FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS IMPORT OF CARTER VISIT

NC040743Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 4 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 4 January--Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has stated that the kingdom believes that a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Middle East problem can only be achieved on the basis of two main principles: withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including occupied Arab Jerusalem, and fulfillment of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and their right to return to their own territory.

In a statement he made after U.S. President Jimmy Carter's brief visit to Riyadh, his royal highness the foreign minister said that without such a solution no Middle East settlement can last and there can be no stability.

He said that the U.S.-Saudi summit talks in Riyadh naturally covered the situation in the Middle East, developments related to the issue and the continuous efforts being made by President Carter to promote a just and lasting solution to the problem.

He added that His Majesty King Khal[illegible]plained to President Carter the clear and firm position of the kingdom. The talks between the two sides, he said, also covered a number of international issues of common interest as well as bilateral relations.

PRESS EXPLAINS SAUDI ATTITUDE ON PALESTINE

LD032230Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the heading "Let Us Search for the Truth, Mr President," chief editor of AR-RIYADH Turki Abdullah as-Sudayri writes:

Mr President: We greet you when you have chosen our country to be a vital and important center occupying a primary place among the Middle East countries in the course of your visit, to which the world attaches great importance.

Mr President: When the U.S. elections were at their peak, we Arabs were examining the faces of the candidates for the presidency looking for a just face that would make the United States an actual leader of the Free World through the adoption of free decisions which are not influenced by the pressures of the forces that influence Washington's policy. Most prominent among these forces is Zionism. You, with your southern features, were the closest face to [words indistinct] to be the man we were waiting for. We are the owners of [word indistinct] right; we do not want to incite any (?great) power against any other in order to serve our interests. We have no interest at all in starting wars nor in creating hostilities among peoples. But we have brothers in blood and faith; we find some among ourselves who possess no home nor refuge after strangers from Europe and Asia came to their country, Palestine. They rendered them homeless and they usurped that country by the law of force while the collusion of the great powers [word indistinct] that.

Can we expect another courageous decision which will return these Palestinians to their homeland, with President Carter and his administration behind such a decision? We are not being over-optimistic; just as we did not plunge headlong into hostility toward the United States in return for the absolute support and backing it gives our opponents. This is because we have confidence in the U.S. mentality, which is open to freedom. Once this mentality examines the facts before it, it is capable of freeing itself from the pressures of Zionism within the American entity.

Mr President, you personally and your people expressed great admiration for Prince Fahd 'ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz when he visited you. We all felt that you were honoring our people, our values and our heritage in the person of Prince Fahd. We feel greatly reassured, as you are aware of the importance of our country at both economic and human levels. Now there exists between us a cooperation which serves the good and noble things in order to protect the community of mankind from the dangers that threaten its economics and its cultural progress.

Today, Mr President, we hope that this mutual admiration will, now that you are the guest of King Khalid, be reflected in the adoption of just stands to be taken by the U.S. administration toward the rights of our homeless Palestinian people.

AL-JAZIRAH writes: Today, the U.S. President is an honored guest of 'Abd al-'Aziz. He will certainly find welcome and hospitality in this generous and hospitable country. But at the same time he will hear the truth and will also find sincerity and determination in what he hears. The U.S. President will find that the responsible leadership of this young kingdom very much insists on the return of holy Jerusalem to Arab authority and Arab supervision. Yes! The U.S. President will hear the word of truth; Jerusalem is Arab and will return to be Arab and will remain Arab until the end of the world.

The U.S. President will also find that the kingdom demands, strongly and with determination and insistence, the complete withdrawal of the Israeli enemy from all the occupied Arab territories--from Sinai, from the West Bank, from the Golan, from every inch of Arab land which was taken by aggression. He will be told: This is the truth. The truth must be followed, truth is as firm and as deep-rooted as mountains.

The U.S. President will hear very clearly the kingdom's insistence on giving the Palestinian people their right to freedom and self-determination and their rights to their land and homeland and their right to return to the homes of their fathers and grandfathers; also their right to set up their independent state on Palestinian soil, which is mixed with the blood of martyrs.

The U.S. President will be hearing all this in the kingdom; he will be leaving fully convinced that there can be no solution for the Middle East issue save on these bases; and there can be no peace if these principles or these pillars which cannot be replaced or deviated from are lost.

The U.S. President is struggling for human rights and he asks the communist camp to respect human rights. We say: Human rights is an indivisible whole, if President Carter is asking for freedom and human rights for the peoples of the Iron Curtain countries, the Palestinian people who were driven out of their homeland unjustly also deserves these rights. We ask: Is it not the right of the Palestinian people to have a homeland and to have a state like other peoples? Is the U.S. President not aware that the United Nations, the highest international rostrum, has condemned Israel many times for violating human rights and the rights of the Palestinian people? It is the right of this people, therefore, to have President Carter on their side out of principle and in loyalty to ideals and Arab friendship.

PRESIDENT CARTER ARRIVES IN EGYPT FOR TALKS

NC040730 [Editorial Report NC] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic, linked up with Cairo Voice of the Arabs, at 0647 GMT on 4 January reports from Aswan airport on the arrival of President as-Sadat at the airport to greet President Carter. At 0648 GMT the Egyptian national anthem is played.

The plane carrying President Carter, the announcer reports, touches down at 0657 GMT. President as-Sadat, his wife, Vice President Mubarak and Prime Minister Mamduh Salim welcome President Carter and a 21-gun salute is fired. The U.S. and Egyptian national anthems are then played and the two presidents inspect a guard of honor, according to the announcer.

After children present flowers to President Carter and his wife, President Carter shakes hands with those greeting him, the announcer says.

Presidents Carter and as-Sadat and their wives then move to the airport lounge amidst a tumultuous welcome by the crowds, the announcer says.

Photographers leave the airport lounge the announcer reports at 0720 GMT so that the As-Sadat-Carter discussions may begin. The announcer adds that Chancellor Helmut Schmidt will attend the final part of the discussions.

The relay ends at 0722 GMT and regular programming is resumed. No speeches or statements were made.

Schmidt Joins Talks

LD040850Y Hamburg DPA in German 0834 GMT 4 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Aswan--Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who is at the moment on holiday in Aswan, took part in the last 10 minutes of the talks between U.S. President Jimmy Carter and the Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat concerning a solution to the Palestine question.

The talk between Carter and As-Sadat only lasted about 45 minutes. Then Schmidt joined in and 10 minutes later the meeting ended. Afterwards As-Sadat and Carter attended a press conference.

As-Sadat Statement After Talks

NC040835Y Cairo Domestic Service in English 0813 GMT 4 Jan 78 NC

[Statement by President Anwar as-Sadat in English at Aswan Airport after his talks with President Carter on 4 January--live]

[Text] I want to tell you that this is a very happy occasion for me and for my people also, to receive our dear friend President Carter here in the Egyptian land. We would have liked that this visit would have lasted a bit longer but we know his commitments.

We had very intensive and fruitful talks upon the whole, I mean, arena, particularly the conflict here in the Middle East and the whole international position and our bilateral relations.

I am very happy to say that our views were identical and we have agreed upon certain steps to keep the momentum of the peace process. All I ask is let us have in a very short time the opportunity to welcome President Carter and to show him the gratitude of my people and myself. At the same time may I say that in the peace process we welcome all our--all the parties concerned. [as heard] They are welcome whenever the time is convenient to them because this time as I have already repeated before we are heading toward peace and real peace in the area, permanent peace. Thank you.

Carter Departs Egypt

NC040842 [Editorial Report NC] Cairo Domestic Services in Arabic and English at 0822 GMT relay events related to President Carter's visit from Aswan airport. After the statements by Presidents as-Sadat and Carter, the announcer says, President Carter climbs the airplane ramp and waves to the crowds. Carter's plane takes off at 0824 GMT, after a successful trip, the announcer reports.

As-Sadat goes to the airport lounge at 0826 GMT where he, according to the announcer, will make statements to reporters and answer their questions, which will be broadcast later. The relay ends at 0828 GMT.

AS-SADAT SAYS HIS TALKS WITH CARTER ENCOURAGING

NC040915Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 4 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Aswan, 4 January--President Anwar as-Sadat has stated that his talks with U.S. President Jimmy Carter were encouraging. The president was answering a question put to him by a reporter after President Carter's departure from Aswan airport.

In reply to another question, President as-Sadat said that his views and President Carter's views were identical even on the Palestine question. President as-Sadat also announced that certain steps will be announced later.

Further Details

NC041249Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Jan 78 NC

[Text] After President Carter's departure from Aswan, President as-Sadat was asked whether he was satisfied with his talks with U.S. President Carter. He replied: I am quite satisfied. I exchanged views during the talks and we arrived at a position where our views were completely identical.

On the Palestine question, reporters asked President as-Sadat if the Palestinians would have some rights in the future. He answered: Why some rights? The Palestinian people are entitled to all the rights.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS EGYPTIAN PEACE PLAN READY

NC040936Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 4 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 4 January--Today's AL-AHRAM notes that Egypt has concluded drawing up the Egyptian peace plan which includes counterproposals to the Israeli plan outlined by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin to President Anwar as-Sadat during their meeting in Ismailia on 25 December.

The paper says that President as-Sadat yesterday made a final review of the points contained in the Egyptian plan which will be discussed by the Egyptian-Israeli political committee in Jerusalem on 15 January. [passage indistinct] The paper expects the formation of the Egyptian military delegation to the Cairo discussions to be announced within the next few days.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT TO VISIT SUDAN 7 JANUARY

NC040922Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0918 GMT 4 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Aswan, 4 January--MENA has learned that President Anwar as-Sadat will pay a 1-day visit to Sudan on Saturday and then return to Aswan.

AS-SADAT INTERVIEWED BY OCTOBER MAGAZINE

NC011145Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0736 GMT 1 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 January--President Anwar as-Sadat has granted an interview to the OCTOBER magazine, published in today's issue of the magazine.

In the interview President as-Sadat speaks at length about the future of peace in the Middle East in light of the Ismailia talks. The following is the text of the interview:

Question: Your Excellency Mr President: Mr Begin's lightning and unscheduled visit to Ismailia has ended. In this visit, we flew for him only two flags; one at the gate of the resthouse and the second behind the rostrum at which you sat at the major press conference--and without us putting up a single picture of his. Although he has returned to his country, the dialog continues in the Israeli newspapers and Knesset as well as in the news agencies. Are the reports being published in the world mere trial balloons or sheer "news items" [akhbar] which they fire off to determine our reaction? Your Excellency Mr President, you have warned us against such trial balloons, against falling under their influence and against meting out angry replies to them. But it is difficult for one to be as courageous as you are and to control his nerves as you do. What is going on around us and, consequently, in our hearts as a reaction to this?

Answer: Begin's visit was not exactly a surprise. I expected the visit to take place, but not with this speed. I had announced at a press conference in Jerusalem that I was prepared to receive him in Egypt at any time he wanted. This is so because following my visit to Jerusalem and my speech to the Knesset, he would have the right to do the same thing. I also told him: I am prepared to invite you to come to me in Sinai. Begin then laughed and said: And I am also ready to invite you to come to me in Sinai also. I did not need to tell him that any place in Sinai is a place in my country. It was understood that I would not invite him to make an official and popular visit and fly flags and put up his pictures, as they did for me in Israel. His military forces still occupy a part of my land and the man understood this.

When Begin asked to meet President Carter, Carter quickly honored Begin's request. Begin went to the United States and held several meetings there and also in the European capitals while his way to and from the United States. Then he offered to visit me in Egypt. I chose Ismailia and it was a coincidence that the day of the visit was a Sunday, Christmas Day, and also my birthday. Begin sent word declining to make the visit on that day because he had not realized that that day was a special day for me. But I assured him that the meeting with him was far too important than the special occasion. As had happened in Jerusalem, everything took place publicly. I do not believe that there can be a more clear and wider publicity than the one offered by radio, television and the press, because everything was seen and heard by millions all over the world. Not only our words, but our whispers and breathing resounded throughout the world.

We also agreed publicly to announce what we had achieved and we also agreed to defer the announcement of what we had disagreed upon, because it is not easy to solve 10-year old military problems, political problems going back decades and psychological problems dating back hundreds of years. There are countless problems and details. All these things require discussions at the ministerial level. However, the final decisions are made at the level of political leaders. There can be numerous views and trial balloons, but what is ultimately important is to what we will affix our signature, that is, the final agreement on specific things which would be achieved immediately or by phases or stages, as has happened and as will happen in all postwar agreements.

For example, what is being said about Sharm ash-Shaykh now, I have said in a previous interview with the OCTOBER magazine and also on television that Sharm ash-Shaykh is Egyptian and will continue to be Egyptian exactly like Cairo. There is no doubt about this and there is no controversy over it whatsoever. We have not discussed this for one simple reason and that is that the withdrawal from Sinai is a principle which was decided on right from the start. Therefore, there is no meaning to what is being said that the Jews are demanding its lease for a short or long period of time because Sharm ash-Shaykh, even to the Jews, is not important. Thus they do not need it. Even if it had any significance and even if voices are raised in Israel about its importance and vitality, they have no right to it because it is part of Sinai from which a complete withdrawal has been decided upon. This is a fact and we must not return to it regardless of any trial balloons that are sent up concerning it.

I still advise my people and kinsmen not to become emotional so easily for we have passed the phase of emotion and fear. Everything has ended. We are now discussing something more important than this. We in Egypt are discussing building and reconstruction. I am eager to stress this so as to be able to say that we have finished with the problems of withdrawal and we must turn to our domestic problems from which military and foreign problems have kept us for a long time. I shall continue to affirm this and I would give many details about it had these details not been left to the ministers in the military and political committees to discuss and decide upon.

Question: Mr President, some of these reports and balloons have come from the Israeli Knesset and this must have a special significance. They must have some serious political significance. That is why they had repercussions throughout the world.

Answer: In Israel there are very difficult and extremely complicated special political conditions and any political leader needs to maneuver and wage fierce battles. They have small and numerous political parties. They have political and religious blocs as well as political-religious blocs. All of these must be convinced together. Everything must be discussed. They are not easily reassured about anything said on the official or information levels.

It is enough to give one example of the extent of the difference in the views of their leaders: Golda Meir says that the word "Palestine" is not found in the political dictionary and therefore the question as far as the territory and people are concerned could not be part of the agenda of any discussion in which she takes part.

Menahem Begin, on the other hand, almost says that it is the word "Israel" that has no place and that "Palestine" is the correct religious word for anyone who lives on the land of Israel and the land of Palestine and that there are two kinds of sons of Palestine--a Palestinian Jew and a Palestinian Arab or a Palestinian Jew, Moslem or Christian.

Moreover, there are very sharp differences over the establishment of the State of Israel itself: there are religious bodies who consider that the establishment of Israel in this form is a sin [haram], that defending it is a sin and that the Israeli army is a sin.

The biggest disagreement among the Jews until now has been that there is not one single agreed definition what would enlighten us as to who is a Jew. Ever since the days of Ben-Gurion, the Jews have not agreed on the definition of a Jew.

In Israel there are two rabbis who sit together and do not speak because they disagree on all the principles of religion more than the leaders differ on all the truisms of political questions.

This is their business and their problem. Nevertheless, this means that there are differences of a different kind in the Israeli political arena and in the religious arena. All this will impose on them political, parliamentary and party requirements that are completely different from ours. This will be repeated many times so long as we continue to negotiate with them because the nature of negotiation will be for them to disagree among themselves and for us to disagree with their government. Their government has another duty to perform and that is to convince those opposed and those in favor. Therefore, we must not be greatly affected by their discussions and sharp quarrels for this is their nature and this their political method and their way during elections and in the government. We must wait without fear, otherwise, we would be like the rejectionist children who were afraid of my visit to Jerusalem and are still in a state of fear lest the Egyptian and the Arab cause would be lost.

We are no longer afraid of anything. Neither will the voice of an opposing view nor its echo frighten us. Moreover, Israel is not afraid of what I said to them. However, all of us are serious and understand everything. This is what matters in the end.

Question: Mr President, many have noticed that you were very serious on the day of the press conference in Ismailia--to be more accurate and concise, you were sullen--a mood in which the people are unaccustomed to seeing you. This made the people say and repeat that the Jews had not made any "concessions" to you on your birthday or given a reply to your historic initiatives; and when the press conference began, the people did not hear what they were expecting to hear. Is not most of this correct?

Answer: We must not use the word "concessions" because it is a word that the other side uses. By withdrawing from Arab territory, they will not be making concessions or giving us gifts, but we will be regaining our land and taking what we must take. They call them concessions because the territory has been in their possession for 10 years. Many of them do not object to this state continuing forever. However, this will not happen after today. This is a fact we have reached and this has no connection with my birthday or the birthday of anyone else.

The question is more serious than for him to give me land because of my birthday or to have lunch in Ismailia. This is an oversimplification of matters, which makes them ridiculous. However, it is certain that we got many things which it would have been impossible to get so quickly by any other means. Neither by war nor by negotiations could we have got them and things would have remained the same for scores or hundreds of years.

It had been agreed that we should deal with general principles in Ismailia. I had announced this before Begin's arrival. This was the agreement between us. This in itself is a very important historic achievement. However, what happened was something more important and greater than this: Begin came and brought a complete plan on withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Maybe this passed without people realizing its importance and seriousness. The seriousness--the seriousness that Israel presented a plan--is that this is the first time since the establishment of the State of Israel that the Jews presented something specific. That is to say that they adopted an opinion and came to submit it in order to reach an agreement or disagreement. This is something that the Jews had completely avoided because they were against anything specific--anything that would have a beginning and an end--because this meant that they would have to have an opinion on the situation and that they would have to present proposals so that there would be counterproposals and other viewpoints. The Jews were very anxious to render everything in an ambiguous way so that it would have no beginning or end nor a head or a tail and so that we would sink in a darkness in a long night which would have to dawn and last forever. However, this time they went further than one could imagine. They came so that we could disagree on something. That is, they came to argue with us. I would state my views and they would state theirs. This is in itself a positive step. We both agreed to discuss everything. Begin had declared that everything was negotiable. This was strange considering Begin's way of thinking for he is a hardliner and a fanatic. Any person can refer to his election campaign speeches to understand the reasons which brought him to power in Israel. These reasons are summed up in one thing, namely, that he is the hawk of hawks.

On Begin's unexpected election, I declared that there were no peace doves and war hawks in Israel and that they were all hawks with Begin at the top.

Suddenly, after my journey to Jerusalem, we find that Begin has changed his opinion and wants peace, not war. He wants discussions. He is not satisfied with declaring his conviction in discussions and in a dialog nor in merely declaring that everything is negotiable until we come up with a specific plan for discussion together. We might agree or disagree and we would leave the task of discussing the details to the ministers.

Therefore, it is not true that we did not agree on anything or that I did not obtain any specific thing. Begin and I cannot ignore public opinion in Israel or the Jewish or world public opinion. This is impossible. Therefore, we must find peace through discussions and understanding until we agree or disagree. If we disagree, we must sit together in order to reach an agreement. This is how things were throughout history and between enemies of yesterday.

Question: Mr President, then you did not have a birthday but a working day like any other day. No birthday cake was presented to you, no candles were lit and put out and no birthday present, political or otherwise, was given to you on the day?

Answer: The Suez Canal Authority had sent a birthday cake but we were busy. I hope others helped themselves to it. We were greatly preoccupied. I do not recall having celebrated my birthday except a very few times. This was at the insistence of my children because they wanted to have the opportunity for us to get together. Many days and weeks would go by without my seeing them because of my preoccupation with work.

On my birthday, I prefer to go to Mit Abu al-Kawm. It is a place which suits my psychological frame of mind. I like to sit alone and meditate. There are many feelings within me that I would like to deal with in thinking about my life and the people around me. I would like to sit alone and contemplate in total serenity. I tried this several times and I look forward to such time. Therefore, such celebrations, which are strange to me as a peasant, do not make me happy but keep me away from myself and privacy. As a peasant, I am not used to such opulence like people in the cities. I do not like birthday cakes or birthday celebrations. I do not like engagements or wedding rings. These are luxuries. A golden or a metal ring is not binding. What binds people together is not a ring but deep and sincere relations. I am not asking the people to act like me but this is my personal taste. I do not like living in the city nor do I prefer the city and its opulence over the simple village life and its people.

Therefore, my birthday was like any other day which I begin early with work and end with work. All that happened was that we had orange juice when the Egyptian and the Israeli delegations sought a reason to celebrate.

Begin came and wished me a happy and long life. I told him that we in Egypt say: "May you live 100 years." Begin said: "We say may you live 120 years because Moses lived 120 years." I do not know whether the reason was because Moses, peace be upon him, actually lived 120 years or because the Israelite tribes were 12 and they multiply this by 10.

The King David Hotel has planted in the "peace forest" in Jerusalem 180 trees in my name. This is their custom. The reason is that the letters "het yud" in Hebrew denote life and in transforming these letters into figures we have the number 18. They multiplied this number by 10 to arrive at 180.

My birthday party began with an orange juice toast and ended with their wishing me long life like Moses, peace be upon him. There were two ladies with us. One was the wife of former Foreign Minister Abba Eban. She was born in Ismailia and had expressed the desire to visit Ismailia where she searched for the house in which she used to live. Likewise, some reporters who came to Cairo went to Alexandria to look for their homes, relatives and friends. Mrs Eban does not speak Arabic. She was accompanied by another woman, one of the richest Jews, who had been born in Alexandria. She is Mrs Ga'on, the mother-in-law of Israeli UN delegate Herzog.

The Jews have a religious and spiritual view of Egypt. Moses, peace be upon him, led them out of Egypt. Their flight from Egypt has several ties with their religious foundation, customs, tradition, tears and wandering in the Sinai, as well as receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai and the death of Moses, who saw the "promised land" but did not enter it. To them, everything has a religious significance so that it may be sacred or make it as truly coming down from heaven with God's grace.

What we see now is that these "sacred things" have different meanings. Sacred dreams such as that of a great Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates and as the land of Goshen--Al-Jizah Province--which some believe to be western border of great Israel, have vanished. They feel ashamed if one mentions this to them because this is no longer logical or practical although some religious men believe this is a divine right.

At the time of the 1973 "bulge," religious people and others said that Moses, who fled from Egypt, had returned to it, that is if Prophet Moses was forced out of Egypt, Gen Moshe Dayan had returned to Egypt. Now General Moshe has returned to Egypt seeking peace for us and for them.

Question: Mr President, the Palestinian problem has been and will continue to be the essence of the dispute between us and Israel. You have confirmed this. They know this very well and they announced that we have differed over it. Have we stopped only at sheer disagreement and is sheer disagreement over the Palestinian problem in itself considered progress? If so, how will we take another step forward concerning the Palestinian problem afterward?

Answer: We have disagreed. But over what? There are a great many differences over this issue as a problem. The problem means a "knot," which can possibly be undone, over which two people differ, with each person trying to find a solution. There are those who believe that "cutting" the knot is easier than "untying it." Cutting the knot means that we would differ completely and draw further away from each other out of despair over any hope for a solution--and this is exactly what Israel wants. Israel wants us to admit to it that there is no solution; as long as there is no solution, we will not think of a solution; and as long as we do not think of a solution, then no problem exists. But if we begin the dialog from this conclusion and say that there is a problem, then there is the possibility of a solution and there is disagreement about it. Therefore there is a dialog and a discussion. This principle was out of the question previously--and it is from this point that the dialog begins. They say the Palestinians have the right to have a land and the whole world says that they have the right to have a homeland--and this is also our opinion.

They also say that the Palestinians have the right to rule themselves by themselves--and this is also our opinion. They also say that for the Palestinians to rule themselves by themselves, it is imperative for the Israeli military forces and the Israeli military government to withdraw from the West Bank--and this is also our opinion. This is something new and the Jews stop at this point.

However, we believe that all this is not enough, that it is imperative for self-rule in the West Bank to result in the right to self-determination and that self-determination should lead to the Palestinians' having their state. This is legitimate and this is natural.

In his interview with OCTOBER magazine, President as-Sadat added: At this point it is impossible for an agreement to exist between us and the Jews. [The Israelis] even say: There is no one in Israel, from the man in the street to the head of state, or to a rabbi in Israel or in the United States, who would agree to the Palestinians having a state with an army equipped with weapons, which would allow terrorists, the Soviets and others to enter. Never, not a single Jew in Israel or in the whole world would ever approve this.

This is the essential dispute. But taking precedence over this dispute is the fact that there are viewpoints which have been altered completely, such as discussing the Palestinian problem, making a decision on the withdrawal of the military forces and the Palestinian people's freedom to rule themselves and choose their own forms of cooperation with their neighbors. Therefore, it is imperative for us to continue the dialog and the discussion and to finally abandon the policy of rejecting any dialog or discussion.

We must also completely abandon the policy according to which we would take everything, but we must take what we can as a means for taking all we can get. We cannot recover in a day what we lost in years.

We will plead for the Palestinian cause on behalf of Egypt and on behalf of the Arab nation until the Palestinian people achieve all they desire.

Question: Mr President, they asked me in Jerusalem how I see Menahem Begin. I said he is a veteran terrorist with the voice of a rabbi. That he is a terrorist is true. He has the voice of a rabbi in view of his extreme fanaticism, although those who have specialized in studying Begin say categorically that the man has changed, that they can no longer see his old claws and fangs and that this enormous change has taken place in the man himself and in his ideas; therefore, they affirm that peace has become possible and that Begin will go down in Hebrew history as the man during whose era the biggest step was taken for the sake of the Jews' peace with the Arabs. How did you personally find him, Mr President?

Answer: We have all worked underground on behalf of our countries and also against the British. Therefore, this brand of people have special qualities and traits. Even more important, they have special and well-known ethics. I have studied Begin thoroughly as a boxer studies his opponent. The boxer asks for pictures and films of his opponent so he can learn his good and bad points, his strengths and weaknesses.

I remember that Pele, the Brazilian world football champion, watched international matches scores of times to see himself and others. I read that he asked to see a single frame 1,000 times, the frame in which he had directed the football toward the goal and missed it, so that he would not do the same thing again.

I have also read about Begin and I have read Begin's own writings.

When I saw him in Jerusalem and sat with him, I realized that he was a man with whom understanding can be reached. I asked President Ceausescu about him. I learned from Ceausescu that Begin is a man who truly wants peace and that he is a strong man in his country who can convince his people of his decisions. That, in my view, is sufficient for me to sit down with him in order to make a decision to convince our peoples about peace.

Continuing to talk about Menahem Begin, President as-Sadat said: He also knows that there are black stigmas in his life--the blowing up of the King David Hotel with all the officers of the British Mandate government who were then in the hotel, and then the Dayr Yasin massacre. He tried very hard to justify these bloody actions he had carried out and to mitigate their effect on the world, particularly on the Arabs.

When Begin issued the new edition of his book "The Revolution," he added a chapter in which he said that it was 'Abd ar-Rahman Pasha 'Azzam who had declared the need to eliminate and exterminate the Jews. Thus Begin wanted to say that the Arabs had initiated the idea of finally ridding themselves of the Jews of Palestine. Then he tried to say that the Jews rode in cars equipped with loudspeakers asking the residents of Dayr Yasin to leave their homes before they were blown up.

Concerning the British, he apologized for some of the crimes committed by the Ergun gang, which he headed. But in 1972 he found a document which totally convicted the British. Begin wanted every Jew to keep a copy of this document in his home so he would realize that the British did not seriously want to save the Jews from their sufferings, but that they seriously wanted to get rid of the Jews. The British learned that 40,000 Hungarian Jews wanted to emigrate to Turkey, and from Turkey to Palestine. But the British left these Jews and Hitler burned them. Begin has a definitive document--published by the British--to this effect.

Therefore, the man carried out this underground activity for religious and patriotic causes.

Continuing his talk about Menahem Begin, President as-Sadat said: If Begin committed the Dayr Yasin massacre, in the October war we committed greater massacres and avenged what took place in Dayr Yasin and in the 1967 defeat. In fact, we put an end to a whole generation. This is a fact. Jewish historians and military men still talk about the extent of this disaster that befell them in October 1973. It was alarming, considering Israel's population. If the Jews were to do the same thing in Egypt and in the same proportion, they would kill a quarter of a million soldiers.

We have avenged what took place in Dayr Yasin and the 1967 defeat. We avenged our dishonor and everything is past. We must seek another method besides war to solve our problems. Otherwise, massacres between us will not end. What happened is enough. Let us seek a new, civilized method to establish peace.

Moreover, we could not impose our conditions on them after the October victories. The Americans intervened and fighting stopped. They, too, could not impose their conditions on us after their fictitious splendid victory in 1967. They defeated us militarily as we did [in October 1973], but neither of us defeated the will of the other.

Therefore, war is not a method to impose the will and conditions on others. We tried that. It could be repeated for hundreds of years. What does sense say? Sense says that we should sit together and discuss, agree and disagree. This is not an easy way. War is easier. It is possible to get ready for war within one year and it is possible to issue a decision within one hour and then fire and destruction would begin. The road to peace is long and quiet, but it is sounder and more civilized.

The British philosopher Carlyle said something which I will not forget in this respect. He said that when the tree in the forest falls it makes a great crash, but no one is aware of the breeze that carries the pollen. Enough destruction of trees. Let us cultivate the land quietly. Let us have peace-loving generations which can live, work and dream in security.

Continuing his talk, President as-Sadat said: An American rabbi, (Baruch Korf), visited me a few days ago accompanied by his little daughter. He came to invite me to a dinner which will be held on 22 February on George Washington's birthday. On behalf of the American education institute, he presented me with a silver model of the Statue of Liberty in appreciation of my peace initiative. He offered an annual scholarship to two Egyptians to study economics and political science. This Rabbi told me: peace is not the responsibility of governments alone. It is also the responsibility of peoples. This man is happy that neither his daughter nor her children or her grandchildren will die in war. This is the hope of all mankind.

This man told me: You do not know what this initiative has caused in the world. Its results are far-reaching and it will produce ripe fruit as time passes. What you have planted is just a seed or a small tree and the small tree will become a peaceful forest--a forest of world peace.

Actually I feel embarrassed and shy as a result of such extreme praise. I took my initiative and I do not claim that I knew in advance that all this would happen in the world. My aim was to have Israel face its people and the entire world, and to confirm that I am serious. Israel must prove it is serious too. What happened was inconceivable. Positiveness and seriousness are what I found in Begin and his government.

Question: We have heard Moshe Dayan saying that his visit to Ismailia was a dream and a fantasy, that he did not believe what he saw and that he could not imagine that something like this could happen. We did not know what he meant exactly. All we know is that his presence in civilian clothes and his calmness were something we could not imagine. However, why could he not imagine coming to Ismailia and sitting together with you?

Answer: I met with Moshe Dayan in Jerusalem during the evening banquet held for me. I also met with him in the Knesset and we had a talk. I know what type of man he is. I have read his writings and what has been said about him. I knew that he was one of the hawks. This is natural after the great victory he achieved in 1967 and after what happened to him in the October war. It is enough for us to read what he has written about himself, what Golda Meir has written about him, what was contained in the Agranat report or about what he did in the war of the generals following the "terrible" October defeat. This is a word I am borrowing from them.

However, the strange thing is that Dayan was flexible during the talks. As a matter of fact, whenever there was disagreement, he used to request that consideration of the matter be deferred until later on. This happened very often. Dayan has shown by this that he wanted us to underline the points of agreement and to defer points of disagreement until later on so that agreement can be reached on them or so they can be discussed in more detail. I stress here that he was more flexible, and therefore more willing, to reach an understanding for the sake of peace.

This does not mean that the points of disagreement were few. They were many. The military men will indeed be faced with many details which must be discussed. Discussions do not scare anyone. This is normal in all peace agreements. However, as I announced, this discussion will not take a long time. The world will know everything in a matter of a few weeks. As usual I will inform our people about all that we have reached; I will explain everything we worked hard to attain and everything we failed to attain.

Question: The first minister to come to you in Ismailia was Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. It was not long before he returned to Jerusalem. Trial balloons were sent up before and after the visit. It seems he was more frank than others; he was forthright and even use to joke with journalists. What type of hawk is he?

Answer: He is a real gentleman and is witty. He also likes to joke. Weizman was a pilot in the British Army during World War II. He spent 2 years in Egypt. All the generals in the Begin government served in the British Army during World War II.

The Israelis pronounce Weizman as Witzman to show that they are Western-oriented and that they are distinct from eastern Jews. This racial discrimination is one of their sharpest disputes, in addition to the political and religious disputes.

Weizman came for discussions, but he was in no position to make any political decisions. Therefore, he went back to present our viewpoint to Begin, who submitted it to the cabinet which approved it completely. Therefore, when Begin came to Ismailia, he had the mandate from his coalition government. When he heard my viewpoints, he returned to submit them to his government, to engage in the party struggle in the Knesset and thus to continue the discussion and the dialog. This is very normal. The Jews speak about themselves and say that when three Jews meet and differ that means they have formed four political parties and five religious ones.

Weizman's ostensible wit conceals strong annoyance with political life. He prefers military life, although his book "On Eagles Wings" depicts instances of personal distress due to differences with his military superiors. He threatened once to quit the army and leave Israel.

Weizman is now disgruntled with political life. He wishes he could leave it and take up commerce. His wit also hides a real tragedy. His son was seriously wounded on the Barlev line in the October war and was near death. How can a man like this not want peace. There is a bereaved father and mother in every Israeli home. No father or mother likes to lose a son. No wife or children would like to lose their husband and father.

President as-Sadat continued his interview with OCTOBER magazine by saying: All Israelis are under arms. War means that the entire nation must fight, not just some people. We know that those who fight--workers, employees, engineers, doctors and lawyers--have to close their offices in time of war. We know that they do this 1 month every year until they reach the age of 55, and we realize that war means death and destruction to all the Israeli people. War is loathsome, because death is loathsome and destruction is harder to bear than death.

When I visited YadVashim in Jerusalem, the memorial to the missions killed and murdered by Hitler, I saw how Jews everywhere felt. The memorial embodies all the suffering of the Jewish people. They are the victims of war, politics and hatred. I do not want to see victims of war, hatred and grudges anywhere.

I do not want more widows and orphans. I am serious in what I am saying. The charlatans of Arab politics have criticized me for visiting this great place which is respected by the Jews. However, I purposely made the visit to show that I am serious about peace, that there should not be any more wars between us and that new oceans of tears will not be shed for millions of future victims.

Question: Mr President, we are using certain expressions rather profusely. Yet, these expressions are not completely clear. For instance, when an Israeli hears the expressions "secure borders," "Israeli security" or just the word "security," he jumps up as if bitten by a snake or pushed into the fire. Why do we feel more secure than they, while they are the ones occupying part of our territory? They feel insecure, yet their forces are occupying the Sinai, the Golan and the West Bank. This requires an explanation from you after what you have seen and heard in Jerusalem and Ismailia.

Answer: The Bar-Lev line, which was destroyed, may appear once again under a new name, because that line was built by fear, a fear which concealed hatred. However, the Bar-Lev line disappeared just as the Maginot line between France and Germany disappeared.

The Bar-Lev line proved incapable of defending anyone. The age when high walls, sand, waterways and deserts can be used as barriers is gone for good. Missiles and planes can reach any position deep in enemy territory. Furthermore, fleets are no more than floating borders. For instance, the U.S. or Soviet fleets in the Mediterranean are nothing but a piece of American or Soviet territory on the borders of our territorial waters. These fleets are mobile borders. Nothing can stand against them or curb their activity. These are foregone conclusions.

However, the Jewish people have a special problem, which we must understand in order to appreciate their stands and learn how they adopt their decisions. The Jews have been living in fear for thousands of years. They lived in ghettos while fearing majority populations everywhere. Thus, they secluded themselves in their own religion, customs and traditions. They held tenaciously to them to protect themselves against other religions. The Jews were also exposed to many massacres and persecutions. All this deepened their feeling of fear.

As a matter of fact, Jews feel that the whole world is their enemy. When they established Israel, the imagination became a reality and the fear became a certainty. They are strangers in a strange land. They are surrounded by millions of hostile Arabs.

Thus, when I told them that they were safe and acknowledged their legitimate presence among us, I turned their convictions upside down. The Jewish people lived for thousands of years without anyone pledging their security and safety. They never before had been called legitimate by an enemy who wanted to be at peace with them.

In his interview with OCTOBER magazine, As-Sadat goes on to say: The problem of the Jews differs completely from ours. We discuss the problem of food security, that is, that every man should be free from hunger and thirst--no, we do not know thirst. However, in Israel they cannot find water. No, in Israel they do not suffer from the problem of food security because food is no problem, but security is. Life itself is their problem. They are not threatened by a lack of food or housing, but they are threatened in merely maintaining an existence. That is why they have been truly terrified by the slogan "We will bury you in the sea." That is why the word "security" means "life," that is, to be or not to be.

When we in Egypt introduced freedoms, our happiness was immense because mere life or existence is not our problem. We take life for granted. In Israel, however, nobody knows if he will be alive or dead the next day. That is why they are all conscripted--because they all are afraid. They are all reluctant because they are all conscripted. If a Bar-Lev line is demolished, then they would set up another in their heartland. This is a fact.

They have another complex, the "Massada" complex. That was the fortress their forefathers defended until death. They do not want Israel to be another Massada to be defended until they become extinct. They do not want to become extinct and that is why they are afraid. That is why they fortify themselves behind fortresses, Bar-Lev lines, aggression, trickery, and abstention from discussions and negotiations. If they enter into discussions and negotiations, they do not want to achieve anything except to keep the situation as it is. That is why they hope the Arabs will have differences and fail to agree on any view so that they can keep their military forces on Arab land, that is, so that they can always fight outside their borders, just as the United States has never fought on its own land.

Thus Begin's step in coming with "a plan" was a positive action. It is positive because now the Jews have a feeling of security. They have this feeling because they saw I was serious in my call for peace.

Question: Your Excellency Mr President, the Ismailia meeting has overshadowed the rest of the world events so much so that we no longer know what the Soviet Union is doing. Is the Soviet Union silent or is it waiting? We see nothing clearly.

Answer: The Soviet Union denounces everything, beginning with my trip to Jerusalem to the convening of the Cairo conference and Begin's visit, despite the fact that the Soviet Union claims that it is under pressure from Syria. In fact, I do not know who is pressing whom. One is worse than the other and one is more of a liar than the other. Meanwhile, we continue to forge ahead.

Question: Mr President, there are conflicting, stumbling statements by the Palestinian organizations. Even worse, some of these organizations oppose the others. Nevertheless, you have given the Palestinians the opportunity to regain what they have lost in all the phases of the initiative.

Answer: The Palestinians have chosen to waste all available opportunities. They are stumbling to such an extent that they have asked, through an Arab state, to meet me secretly. Can you imagine this? The ultimate in stumbling and unethical behavior. Naturally, I have rejected this. They also tried with Moshe Dayan during his visit to Germany, that is, to meet him secretly. And he turned down their request.

Question: Mr President, President Carter recently announced that he supports the Israeli viewpoint in his opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state. How did he announce this?

Answer: When the U.S. television newsmen asked me, I said that I had heard nothing of this kind. They brought me the dispatch sent by news agencies and they read it to me. I found out that this statement, if true, would create great difficulties for us at the negotiations. Despite the fact that in such instances I do not comment on what the newspapers or news agencies say, I requested an immediate and official notification.

If this is true, then Carter has placed before me an obstacle which will require tremendous effort to surmount and overcome.

We must anticipate many differences regarding this obstacle in Israel and elsewhere. Those reviewing what the Israeli papers say or what international newspapers attribute to them will find that differences of views have begun to appear, and that this will intensify. Therefore, the situation demands that we be vigilant and not draw conclusions in advance. We have taken very big strides and the course we will follow is one of dialog, which is more difficult than fighting and war. But we must not for a moment forget that we are in a better and stronger position.

I am optimistic. I will continue to be so because I have justification for all this. Believe me and wait. The world around us has changed. The slogan of any Israeli was: "My border is where I raise my flag"--that is, the Israeli soldier would invade any territory and his border would be wherever he raised his flag. This was the slogan of Christopher Columbus in the 15th century. All the European states competed to hoist their flags on any territory in the new world. If a flag was hoisted, the territory on which that flag was raised was the property of the state to which the flag belonged. Thus the world states competed to raise their flags on any territory.

The Jews were under this illusion and believed this. Their border, as Ben Gurion said, was where they raised their flag. This became their illusion and will remain so.

Our territory will return to us. Ours will also be liberated. We will liberate our sons in the West Bank. Their children must be released from Israeli prisons. This is a definite fact. We have pledged ourselves to this. Therefore, we must cooperate together. Israel continues to watch with a hawk's eye, beak and claw. Arab fragmentation is a weak point in our front which helps Israel, not us. This helps Israel to remain where it is and us where we are, and, even worse.

'ARAFAT HOLDS TALKS WITH BATH PARTY OFFICIALS

JN301600Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 30 Dec 77 JN

[Text] The brother leader Abu 'Ammar arrived in Beirut at dawn today from Baghdad, where he met yesterday with Saddam Husayn, the assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Iraq. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department; and Brother 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, member of the PLO Executive Committee. It was attended on the Iraqi side by Tariq 'Aziz, member of the National Command of the Iraqi Ba'th Party; Sa'dun Shakir, member of the party Regional Command, and 'Abd al-Husayn Muslim, director of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Command in the party National Command. The meeting discussed the developments of the situation in the Arab region.

PFLP'S HABASH, REJECTIONIST GHAWSHAH ARRIVE IN BAGHDAD

JN032150Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Jan 78 JN

[Text] At the invitation of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Palestinian Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and Samir Ghawshah, secretary of the central leadership of the rejectionist front, arrived in Baghdad today on a visit to Iraq that will last several days. They were met upon arrival by Comrades Tariq 'Aziz, member of the National Command of the Ba'th Party; 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, secretary general of the Arab Liberation Front and PLO Executive Committee member; 'Abd al-Husayn Muslim, chief of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Office of the Ba'th Party National Command; and bureau member Abu Waddah.

In a statement to INA, Dr George Habash said that since 1967 U.S. imperialism has been trying to impose a comprehensive settlement on the Arab region that will assure it of striking at the supports of the democratic Arab revolution, returning its hegemony to the whole Arab region and consecrating the Zionist presence in the occupied territory. He added that the concerned Arab parties, after the October war, began taking the road of imperialism. As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem was the crowning point in this yielding to such a settlement in its existing Zionist formula so as to completely liquidate the Palestinian revolution.

Dr Habash pointed out that he will discuss these subjects with his comrades in the Ba'th Party and will also discuss issues relating to the progressive front. He said that the Ba'th Party has taken a principled stand vis-a-vis the presented settlement since the October war. Iraq's contribution toward establishing this front is of great significance.

Dr Ghawshah said in a statement that he will hold talks with his comrades in the Ba'th Party on the best means which will lead to pooling the resources of the Arab nation, particularly its progressive vanguard forces, in order to face the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary conspiracise. He added that the Iraqi region, with its clear national stands and through its economic, military and political weight and also with its strategic depth, will be a main bastion to build the front for steadfastness and liberation, to face the challenges and plots of the Zionists and imperialists and to achieve the aspirations of the Arab nation.

HUSYAN RETURNS HOME AFTER VISITING IRAN, KUWAIT

JN031243Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jan 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn returned home this afternoon from Teheran at the end of a 5-day visit to Iran during which he held talks with His Majesty Mohamed Reza Pahlavi, the shah of Iran, and met with U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

This morning His Majesty King Husayn paid a short visit to Kuwait en route to Amman where he offered condolences to His Excellency Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, the amir of the state of Kuwait, on the death of the late Shaykh Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah. The chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister and the air force commander also offered their condolences.

Upon arrival at Amman airport His Majesty King Husayn was received by His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad, Crown Prince Hasan and Princes 'Abdallah and Faysal. The king was also received at the airport by the prime minister, the Senate president, the commander in chief of the armed forces, the ministers, and senior civil and military officials.

The delegation accompanying his majesty the king returned home today as well.

HUSAYN: ISRAEL MUST BE REALISTIC, EVACUATE ARAB LAND

JN031328Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jan 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has stated that the current peace moves in the Middle East following President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative will not lead to any positive results unless the Israelis become more realistic and express readiness to withdraw from all occupied Arab territory. In an interview with the Iranian newspaper KAYHAN, His Majesty King Husayn affirmed that the majority of Palestinians and Arabs, including Syria, will take part in the negotiations if the Israelis agree to Arab conditions, the foremost of which is withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory.

His majesty added that the Israeli stand as represented by Begin's latest proposals has created a serious obstacle in the peace talks. Any peaceful solution will be meaningless without the participation of the Palestinians in determining it.

His majesty said that the suggestion of establishing autonomy on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under Israeli military occupation will be rejected under any and all conditions. Israel's adherence to this stand means that any peace talks will not succeed.

N.Y. TIMES Interview

JN031705Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jan 78 JN

[Text] In an interview published in the New York TIMES, His Majesty King Husayn has said that he does not see anything in the Israeli proposals submitted to Egypt last week which might constitute a basis for a negotiated settlement of the Middle East crisis. His Majesty King Husayn expressed his pessimism regarding the Israeli plan. He said: Many people feel this in view of the Israeli proposals.

His majesty the king continued: Without Israel's acceptance of the basic Arab demands, namely, withdrawal from the Arab lands occupied in 1967 and the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people, there is nothing that the Arab side can offer.

AD-DUSTUR REPORTS U.S. SURPRISE AT HUSAYN STAND

JN031132Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Jan 78 pp 1, 13 JN

[Text] New York dispatch by 'Adnan al-Katib--U.S. diplomats and Western diplomats in general have told the AD-DUSTUR correspondent that they are surprised at the hardline stand taken by His Majesty King Husayn toward the recent peace proposals, supported by the United States, particularly at his hardline stand on the basic Arab demands represented in Israel's full withdrawal and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The diplomats said that they were surprised by his majesty's statements to the American television correspondents in Teheran in which he said that he views Begin's failure to respond to President as-Sadat's initiative as a serious and saddening matter. He thereby puts the blame on Begin alone, holding him responsible for missing this golden opportunity to establish peace in the area. One of these diplomats told the AD-DUSTUR correspondent that "King Husayn's line has become harder and that he seems to be insistant on the maximum Arab demands. Furthermore, he is more of a hardliner on the question of the future of Jerusalem than any other Arab leader."

High-ranking diplomats said that, although his majesty the king avoided direct criticism of the United States, he conveyed a tough message to President Carter's administration to the effect that it should exert real pressure on Israel to prompt it to take a more positive and clearer stand, as this is the only means to keep the new diplomacy in the Middle East going--the diplomacy which was the outcome of President as-Sadat's initiative and his visit to Jerusalem.

AD-DUSTUR ANALYZES CARTER'S EFFECT ON CURRENT TALKS

JN040904Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 4 Jan 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Today's Jordanian papers comment editorially on the Israeli intransigence which has become obvious during President Carter's current tour and his meetings with Arab leaders to hear their views on the Israeli peace plan which Menahem Begin presented during his meeting with President as-Sadat in Ismailia.

Commenting, AD-DUSTUR says: Menahem Begin cannot but continue sending letters to President Carter. Meanwhile, Israeli circles have expressed anxiety over the talks in Teheran between His Majesty King Husayn and the American President, and Begin was astonished that the king did not find anything in the Israeli proposals concerning the West Bank and the Gaza Strip that could form a basis for negotiations.

The astonishment expressed by Begin shows that the Israeli mentality has not changed. Israel still views matters from the angle of exploiting the results of its aggression, while the rest of the world views them from a completely different angle--of exploiting the current opportunity to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the area.

Explaining Israeli anxiety over the Husayn-Carter talks does not require a great effort. It is no secret that King Husayn's clear and firm position on the need for withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territory and the guaranteeing of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination has been a source of great anxiety for the Israeli rulers. They know that King Husayn stated his position frankly and objectively to President Carter.

They now fear the repercussion on the U.S. position. The Israeli rulers also know only too well that what President Carter heard from His Majesty King Husayn will be the same thing that he will hear from King Khalid and President as-Sadat. Thus, President Carter finds himself faced with Israeli intransigence on the one hand and, on the other, a rare opportunity to achieve a just and comprehensice peace in the area. There is also the fact that U.S. interests are closely tied to this peace which, to the United States, is too important an opportunity to just let pass by.

The position which the U.S. President takes will have a great impact on the current efforts to establish peace in the area. Depending on the President's position, this impact will either curb Israeli intransignece and push those efforts toward acceptable bases and an expanded framework enabling all Arab sides to participate or it will cause those efforts to give way to Israeli prevarications, with resultant dangers to the area and possibly to other areas in the world.

SECRETARY GENERAL OF ECONOMIC UNITY COUNCIL ARRIVES

JN041125Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Jan 78 p 2 JN

[Text] Amman--Secretary General of the Arab Economic Unity Council Dr 'Abd al-'Ali as-Saqban arrived in Amman yesterday for a 2-day visit to Jordan during which he will meet with the minister of industry and commerce and Jordanian economic officials.

Dr as-Saqban told AD-DUSTUR that his visit to Jordan is part of a tour he is making to several Arab states with the aim of discussing the questions related to the 30th session of the Arab Economic Unity Council, the time and venue of its convening, and the best means to bolster joint Arab action in the economic domain.

Dr as-Saqban met yesterday with Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr Najm ad-Dajani.

BUTRUS MEETS WITH BRITISH, U.S. AMBASSADORS

NC3014312 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Dec 77 NC

[Text] Minister for Foreign and Expatriate Affairs Fu'ad Butrus held intensive diplomatic consultations today. The consultations dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East crisis and the international moves concerning a peaceful settlement in the area.

The minister for foreign affairs met at 1032 for 45 minutes with British Ambassador Peter Wakefield, who stated later that they had discussed the Middle East crisis and held a general discussion on the situation in the region and Lebanon.

Minister Butrus then met for n hour with U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker. Following the meeting the ambassador was asked what he had discussed with the minister for foreign affairs. Parker replied that the talks had dealt with current events and that "we held a wide-ranging discussion on the occasion of the end of the year."

Asked whether the discussion dealt with Begin's proposal, the ambassador said: We discussed everything.

Regarding the reason for the visit, which took place at the minister's request, the U.S. ambassador said: The foreign minister wanted to discuss all subjects.

Asked whether the plan for the resettlement of the Palestinians had been discussed with the minister for foreign affairs, he said: No, the plan was not discussed.

Asked whether the problem of the south is still difficult and complex, the ambassador said: Has it become any simpler?

Asked whether the foreign minister had asked him for any clarifications regarding the resettlement of Palestinians in Lebanon, he said: There is no such plan. Perhaps Mr Begin has a proposal, but he know nothing about it.

Asked whether there are any moves concerning the south designed to extend the Shtawrah Agreement, he said: Naturally, the south was among the subjects we discussed.

The minister for foreign affairs later met French Ambassador Hubert Argod.

Butrus Comments

NC3020122 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Dec 77 NC

[Excerpts] Fu'ad Butrus, minister of foreign and expatriate affairs, today discussed Lebanon's main problems, particularly after the Israeli peace proposal and its contents which were rejected by all Arab capitals including Cairo, with the ambassadors of the United States, Britain and France in Lebanon. They also discussed the latest developments in the Middle East problem and the international moves regarding a peaceful settlement in the area.

Following these meetings, in reply to questions put forward by reporters reflecting Lebanese anxieties regarding current events, Minister Butrus said. [begin recording]

On the occasion of the year's end, and in view of the current developments in the Middle East area, I felt it necessary to exchange information with some ambassadors of Western states, particularly on bilateral matters which merit discussion. We had a round of discussions on Middle East policy, matters of concern to the Arab world, and relations between Lebanon and the states whose ambassadors I called.

[Question] Did Lebanon request anything specific from the ambassadors regarding the situation in the region and Lebanon in particular?

[Answer] If "anything specific" means a specific matter, then I did not request anything. However, I did request information, gave my views and asked that they be conveyed. We also participated in envisaging the developments that might occur. [end recording]

When Minister Butrus was asked if the resettlement plan was included in Begin's proposals, he replied: [begin recording]

As far as I know, this was not raised in the discussions which took place. This matter is important because it occupies a leading place in our view. We are bent on pursuing it and on doing all that is necessary to attain acceptable solutions if matters move in this direction.

MENA REPORTS NEW CABINET EXPECTED SOON

NC0310402 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 3 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Beirut, 3 January--Lebanese official sources said today they expect a new cabinet to be formed soon to succeed the present cabinet of Dr Salim al-Huss. The sources told the MENA correspondent in Beirut that it can be said that the present cabinet, which was formed in December 1976, has accomplished its mission in the fields of development, security arrangements and in starting the rebuilding of the army and the Internal Security Forces.

SARKIS REVIEWS FOREIGN DEVELOPMENTS WITH BUTRUS

NC0214332 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Jan 78 NC

[Text] His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis held a 2-hour working meeting at noon today attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus. Developments on the foreign level during the holiday period were reviewed.

After the meeting Minister Butrus made a statement in which he said: We reviewed with His Excellency President Sarkis matters related to foreign policy and some matters related to the affairs of the Defense Ministry.

Carter Tour Discussed

NC0214342 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 2 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Beirut, 2 January--The MENA correspondent in Beirut has learned that the discussion during the meeting also dealt with the current tour of U.S. President Carter of certain Middle East countries, the possible effects of this tour on the efforts for a peaceful settlement, and the effects of such a settlement on the situation in Lebanon.

It is known that Lebanon is following with extreme concern reports about a plan to settle the Palestinians in their countries of residence. Lebanon has officially informed the big powers of its rejection of this plan.

AS-SADAT'S POLICY DENOUNCED AT RALLY, IN PRESS

Procession in Homs

JN031227Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpts] Homs--The masses of Homs district today declared their sweeping nationalistic fury over As-Sadat's capitulationist policy and affirmed their support of leader President Hafiz al-Asad and the pan-Arab constant and principled line of Syria in confronting the challenge and rejecting concessions and relinquishment of rights. It represents continuation of sacrifices for the sake of the dignity of our people, liberation of our lands and regaining of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

The Homs masses denounced As-Sadat's capitulationist line and his policy of relinquishing Arab land and dignity. The masses also condemned his capitulation to the enemies of our people and his treason to the blood of the martyrs of Arabdom in Sinai, the Golan, Mount Hermon and all battlefields of Arab honor.

Well over 300,000 male and female citizens participated in the biggest patriotic procession ever witnessed by the city of Khalid ibn al-Qalid [early Islamic military leader supposedly buried in Homs] to express their sweeping fury and strong denunciation of As-Sadat's capitulationist steps, his relinquishment of Arab rights and his willingness to kneel before the Zionist enemy. The Homs masses affirmed their absolute support for the pan-Arab policy being followed by the Syrian Arab Republic under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad.

The procession went through the main streets and congregated in Ath-Thawrah Square in front of the headquarters of the central area command, where the mammoth speech rally began. Several comrade members of the national and regional commands of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, several ministers, the comrades secretary and members of the Ba'th Party branch in Homs, the governor of Homs, members of the branch of the Progressive Nationalist Front, men of religion, heads of the popular, vocational and trade union organizations, and high-ranking officials at the district led the procession.

Comrade Ahmad Diyab, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, spoke on behalf of the party. He reviewed the imperialist-Zionist plot being implemented by As-Sadat through his capitulationist stands. He said: The shameful visit which As-Sadat paid to the occupied areas did not come at As-Sadat's initiative, but is the outcome of American-Zionist planning aimed at dismembering the unity of the Arab ranks.

He added: We will continue to say, together with the struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, that we will not kneel or capitulate. Rejection of As-Sadat's visit is an expression of your firm solidarity with the struggle of our Arab people in beloved Egypt against As-Sadat's regime.

Shakir Barghuth, member of the branch of the Progressive Nationalist Front in Homs, spoke on behalf of the front; and Comrade Tahir Amardash, secretary of the Revolutionary Youth Union branch in Homs, spoke on behalf of the popular organizations.

At the end of the mammoth procession this morning, the furious masses sent the following cable to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad: Homs, with all its masses, tells the leaders and the leadership, in one voice, one heart, and a cohesive steadfast front, that we are with you until victory. We are with you in a front of steadfastness that cannot be shaken by the storms of imperialism and treason. We also tell As-Sadat and those behind him that the treasonable defeatists will not succeed. Palestine and Jerusalem will remain Arab. As-Sadat's regime will be toppled at the hands of the Arab people in Egypt.

TISHRIN Comment

JN040752Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 4 Jan 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Writing under the headline "Rejection of Capitulation Does Not Mean Rejection of Peace," the newspaper TISHRIN says today: Any two persons who think realistically cannot differ on the fact that As-Sadat's policy has failed, collapsed and proved unable--despite all concessions--to convince Israel to give up its negative stand toward the issues of withdrawal, Palestinian rights and Jewish settlements in the occupied areas.

Campaigns being instigated against the front of steadfastness--willingly or unwillingly--admit that As-Sadat had failed to honor any of his pledges. These campaigns also admit the significance and vitality of the role being played by the front of steadfastness in preventing As-Sadat's regime from implementing the plot in which he accepted playing apart, alongside Israel and the United States.

TISHRIN adds: Syria's initiative under President Hafiz al-Asad in struggling against As-Sadat's visit and its adverse impact, as well as the rallying of the front of steadfastness, the Arab masses, the PLO and all the Arab parties and forces around Syria in its firm and effective stand, has brought about the strangling isolation of As-Sadat's regime in the Arab homeland. As-Sadat's regime remains alone at the table of the secret negotiations in Cairo. Even the United States, which tried to help As-Sadat's regime on the Arab level, has failed to find a single partner for As-Sadat in his trip along the dead-end road.

AL-AHRAM itself compalins of the isolation of As-Sadat's regime in the Arab homeland and attacks the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the gulf states because they did not and will never support the Egyptian regime.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS SWEDISH ROVING AMBASSADOR

JN031820Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Jan 78 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received in his office this afternoon Swedish roving ambassador (Alstrom), who is currently visiting Syria on an official mission. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Khani; Dr Rafiq Juwayjati, director of the West European department in the Foreign Ministry; and the Swedish ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting viewpoints were exchanged on the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations. Khaddam explained the situation in the area, clarifying the gravity of As-Sadat's steps. He said that these steps wreck efforts being exerted for peace based on justice and rights. He also explained Israel's increasing intransigence and flouting of Arab rights.

Referring to the front of steadfastness and confrontation, Khaddam said that this front will strengthen its position until it restores the unity of the Arab position in every genuine effort leading to just and lasting peace based on the inadmissibility of the forcible occupation of any territory and the attainment by the Palestinian people of their complete rights.

The Swedish delegation explained Sweden's firm position, which recognizes Resolutions 242 and 338 and calls for withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the need to respond to the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and establishment of their independent state.

The Swedish delegation reaffirmed its recognition of the PLO as the spokesman of the Palestinian people in international rostrums. The PLO has an office in the Swedish capital, Stockholm.

The Syrian and Swedish sides agreed to bolster trade, tourism and cultural relations. The Swedish delegation extended an invitation to representatives from the Syrian Government to visit Sweden with the aim of strengthening relations between the two countries.

The Swedish roving ambassador arrived in Damascus last night on an official 3-day visit to Syria.

AL-ASAD SENDS CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF KUWAITI AMIR

JN311212Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 31 Dec 77 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus--As soon as President Hafiz al-Asad received the painful news of the death of late Shaykh Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah, he sent the following cable of condolences to Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of Kuwait:

His Excellency Brother Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of Kuwait: With extreme grief and sorrow we heard the news of the death of His Excellency Shaykh Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah of a heart attack. We were linked to him with ties of fraternity and joint action for the sake of our Arab nation. The late amir had noble traits and true Arab character. He worked assiduously to serve the fraternal Kuwaiti people.

On behalf of the Syrian Arab people and in my own name, I sent Your Excellency and the fraternal people in Kuwait my heartfelt condolences. We share with you sadness over the great departed one. We pray God to have mercy on his soul and to help you to shoulder the responsibility to lead Kuwait, to serve its courageous people and to support our Arab nation.

[Signed] Your Brother Hafiz al-Asad

Khulayfawi Back From Kuwait

JN311950Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Dec 77 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Adib Mulhim and Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad returned from Kuwait at 1800 today after extending condolences in the name of President Hafiz al-Asad over the death of the Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah.

ALGERIA

PERSONAL ENVOY OF IRAQI PRESIDENT ARRIVES

JN292122Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 29 Dec 77 JN

[Text] Comrade Na'im Haddad, member of the Revolution Command Council and of the Ba'th Party National Command and personal envoy of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, arrived in Algiers this evening from Tripoli. Comrade Haddad will deliver a letter from President al-Bakr to President Boumediene dealing with the situation through which the Arab nation is passing. Present at the airport to receive Comrade Haddad were the Algerian minister of justice and the Iraqi ambassador in Algiers.

Meets With Boumediene

JN301539Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Dec 77 JN

[Text] Algerian President Houari Boumediene received Comrade Na'im Haddad, Ba'th Party National Command member, RCC member and personal envoy of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr in Algiers today. During the meeting President Bojmediene received a letter from President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr on developments in the Arab situation. The meeting was attended by the Iraqi ambassador in Algiers. Earlier Comrade Haddad delivered a letter from President al-Bakr to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Concludes Visit

LD301957Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 30 Dec 77 LD

[Excerpt] Na'im Haddad, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, left Algiers this afternoon. President Hasan al-Bakr's special envoy was received by the head of state this morning, to whom he has handed a message from the Iraqi head of state.

BOUMEDIENE LEAVES FOR VISIT TO ARAB EAST

LD031336Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD

[Text] President Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and president of the Council of the Revolution, left Algiers this morning for a visit of several days to the Arab east. The president is accompanied by an important delegation which includes Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Council of the Revolution and foreign minister; Ahmed Draia, member of the Council of the Revolution and minister of transport; Mohamed Seddik Benyahia, minister of finance; Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi, minister counselor to the president of the republic; Mohieddine Amimour, adviser to the president; and Abdelkader Bensafi, head of the Arab World Department of the Foreign Ministry.

The president and his accompanying delegation were seen off by Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui, member of the Council of the Revolution and executive official in charge of the party structure; Mohamed Benahmed Abdelghani, member of the Council of the Revolution and minister of the interior; Ahmed Bencherif, member of the Council of the Revolution and minister of irrigation, land development, and environmental protection; Mohamed Tayebi Larbi, member of the Council of the Revolution and minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; Col Abdallah Belhouchet, member of the Council of the Revolution and commander of the 1st Army Division; Redha Malek, minister of information and culture; Abdelmagid [name indistinct], secretary general of the presidency; Lt Col Mohamed Alleg, military commander of the Algiers region; and a number of other military and civilian officials as well as the Iraqi ambassador in Algiers.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON FRENCH-POLISARIO DISPUTE

LD311457Y Algiers APS in French 1300 GMT 31 Dec 77 LD

[Text] Paris--The Algerian Embassy in France has published a clarification concerning a statement made by Mr de Guiringuad, French foreign minister. The communique from the Algerian Embassy states:

"Following the conversation he had with Mr de Guiringuad, Mr Mohamed Bedjaqui, Algerian ambassador in France, is surprised that it was stated that he did not challenge the allegation that the POLISARIO held the French prisoners on Algerian territory. Mr de Guiringaud limited himself to asking the ambassador to (?convey) two precise problems to his government. Thus, it was not for the ambassador either to approve or disapprove of their justification, but to transmit them to his government in the formulation the minister wished to give them. Also, however, the ambassador wanted to bring the debate onto a general level by putting the real basic problems, which beyond the current vicissitudes threaten Algerian-French relations, and explained the fundamental reasons for the worsening of these relations over the past 2 years. In this context he could only deplore French intervention in a conflict to which France should remain strictly neutral."

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES CONFEDERATION PRIME MINISTER

JN040615Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 4 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received Ahmad al-Khatib, the prime minister of the Confederation of Arab Republics, in Tripoli yesterday.

In a statement to the SANA Tripoli correspondent following the meeting, Al-Khatib said that he conveyed President al-Asad's greetings to Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and to the Libyan people. Al-Khatib said that he told the Libyan leader that President al-Asad regards Libya's security, prosperity and progress just as he regards the security, prosperity and progress of Syria. He said that President al-Asad considers them as one cause.

Al-Khatib said that he discussed with the Libyan leader matters pertaining to the confederation in light of the new reality, which has dictated his transfer to Tripoli following As-Sadat's direct dealing with the Zionist enemy and his relinquishment of his commitments toward the confederation and the Arab nation and its basic issue--the Palestinian cause. He also discussed the issue of completing the formation of the confederation government, opening the confederation National Assembly, defining the confederation budget and insuring all that is necessary for the confederation's progress.

Al-Khatib said that the Libyan leader expressed his high admiration for the heroic steadfastness of the Syrian people under President Hafiz al-Asad vis-a-vis the enemy's plot against the Arab nation's fateful issues.

AT-TURAYKI CABLES BOUTEFLIKA ON U.S. MIDEAST AIMS

LD040314Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpt] The organ of the PLO, FALASTIN ATH-THAWRAH, has confirmed that the As-Sadat-Carter meeting is nothing but another facet of the plot being implemented by the Egyptian regime to liquidate the Palestinian resistance. This was in fact confirmed by the message received by Brother Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Algerian Council of the Revolution and foreign minister, from 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Libyan foreign secretary.

The message says: Without any doubt you fully appreciate the difficult and serious dimensions of the phase through which our Arab nation is today passing. The Zionist-imperialist plans now are far clearer than any other time. Their aim is to swallow up the Arab homeland and to subjugate it to Zionist domination and influence. All peace efforts and initiatives by the Arabs are being exploited by the enemy to strengthen and perpetuate the Israeli occupation of Arab territories. According to information available about Begin's latest scheme, the Zionists are affirming their occupation of Arab territories and the perpetuation of the Israeli military domination.

This scheme proposes to exclude from the scope of the accord the geographical (?zone) of Rafah in order to obtain strategic protection and to lease for 20 years a coastal belt of 10 km which will be linked with Israel. The scheme also proposes to exclude the region of Sharm ash-Shaykh from Egyptian sovereignty and place it under Israeli administration for 20 years to guarantee the safety of Israeli navigation in the Red Sea. This is considered a setback to the Arab strategy to turn the Red Sea into a lake of peace and it exposes the eastern flank of the Egyptian Sinai forces. It also permanently threatens the Suez Canal route and its southern entrance and the northwestern region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki in his message to Brother Abdelaziz Bouteflika went on to say: Whatever alterations the enemy makes, his main motive is to contain Egypt and to cordon it off from the east up to Rafah. So from this scheme we see that his basis for settlement seeks to contain the Arab nation and dominate the Red Sea and to subjugate it to his influence from its northern point to its southern point and to enable him to impose his full economic and military control over it.

This is the target of the U.S. policy in the region. Whatever policy the United States adopts toward some Arab countries, its goal will remain clear: to enable Israel to dominate the Arab countries and the sources of oil.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI WARNS OF 'BIG POWER' MANEUVERS IN AFRICA

LD031730Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0850 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Speech by President Ja'far Numayri at a rally in Dunqulah to mark the 22d anniversary of Sudan's independence--live]

[Excerpts] We realize that a capable and independent Sudan will always be a target of the ambitions and conspiracies of forces that mistakenly believe that they can subjugate our will, control our resources and use the soil of our homeland as a ferry and a bridge to achieve their ambitions in the African Continent and the Arab world [words indistinct].

The Sudan, which said "no" to attempts to dominate by subjugation in 1971, is the Sudan which said "no" to attempts to dominate by invasion in 1976. On both occasions it said this word in blood and sacrifice. We know by experience, and not just in theory, the price that great peoples must pay to defend their independence and their free will. It is a price that we have paid several times and will continue to pay whenever the ambition to dominate and control, infiltrate and encircle seeks to impose its will on us by conspiracy or subjugation.

We see a big power alleging that it is raising the banners of peace, just as it alleges that it is the champion of peace. Yet that big power has replaced slogans with guns and words with weapons and has exhausted the energies of several peoples, causing some to attack others to serve its interests and others to defend themselves against attempts made by its adherents although all of them are victims of its ambitions and aims to dominate and expand.

We know that a big power is still continuing its conspiracy against Sudan and its revolution, against Sudan and its people, against Sudan and the achievements and victories it has realized in all spheres. Brothers, we know that a big power has not gotten over its rage against the people of Sudan, who said "no" to any subjugation of their will, just as they said "no" to the (?treachery) of surprise attack and unexpected and dastardly invasion.

We know that this state wants Sudan to be its point of entry for a fresh return to positions that it lost in the African Continent and the Arab world. We know that this state is planning and conspiring against Sudan, its people and revolution, against Sudan and its gains. Although we have exercised patience and held our silence so far, we nonetheless have details, details which neither our patience nor our silence will accommodate if such despicable treachery continues.

From here and on this occasion I raise my voice aloud. I warn the brothers in the Arab and African states against the designs of this big power, which is trying to dominate by ideological subjugation first, and then by subjection of the will, hiding behind protestations of a friendship that does not last, affection that does not [word indistinct] and alliance that does not continue. Whenever the national will collides with the wish to dominate, the expansionist strategies and savage ambitions of this big power, it becomes hostile, launches campaigns of accusation, and indeed resorts to conspiracy and hostility.

Perhaps the example is clear in East Africa. My brother and friend, President Siad Barre, told me yesterday about all that this big power is doing, namely, conspiring in this region, and how they are struggling (?with determination) to isolate it from this region. We extend our hand to meet his. I also advise the African and Arab states to hold out their hand to join ours so that we may combat this canker which is alien to our country. From here also I warn the brothers in the Arab nation and the African Continent against the suspect alliance with this state, mutual (?security) agreements and friendship treaties with it, because we here in the Sudan as well as our brothers (?from the states of the continent) and the [word indistinct] nation have [word indistinct] and know the aims of these agreements and treaties which were merely (?for the gains) and ambitions of this power and its designs for domination and imposition of its will.

The peoples and states of the Arab nation and the African Continent are capable of protecting their security by relying on their own capabilities.

From a position of responsible participation, we are working for and demanding the unity of Arab ranks, the return of Arab solidarity and Arab unity in order to liberate the land still occupied and to (?affirm) the right of the Palestinian people to their homeland.

We firmly believe that differences (?of opinion), multiplicity of [words indistinct] and diversity of methods cannot be a reason for Arab disunity.

The Sudan will continue its moves and efforts to consolidate and reaffirm Arab solidarity and the unity of Arab ranks [words indistinct]. The Sudan will remain in its position as [words indistinct] of the Arab nation, a partner in its struggle for the sake of peace based on justice, the liberation of occupied Arab land and the safeguarding of the rights of the brotherly Palestinian people.

NUMAYRI RECEIVES SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE

LD021852Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] The president of the republic, Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, received this evening at his office His Excellency President Siad Barre, president of the Somali Democratic Republic, and was holding talks with him when this newscast was prepared.

The Somali president and the delegation accompanying him arrived at Khartoum airport at 1715 this evening and was welcomed by the leader president and some senior officials. SUNA has learned that the Somali president, Siad Barre, will spend 2 days in the country and will accompany the leader president tomorrow to Dunqulah [word indistinct] the country's independence anniversary celebrations.

Siad Barre Concludes Visit

LD031658Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre and the delegation accompanying him left Dunqulah at 1445 this afternoon after attending part of the celebrations of the 22d anniversary of Sudan's glorious independence. Leading those who saw him off at the airport was leader President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri.

NUMAYRI AGREES TO RETURN OF ETHIOPIAN PRISONERS

NC011616Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 1 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Khartoum, 1 January--Sudanese President Ja'afar Numayri agreed today to the return of the Ethiopian soldiers and officers who sought refuge in Sudan, with the exception of those who wish to remain in Sudan. This came in response to the request of the Ethiopian ambassador that these soldiers and officers be allowed to return.

It should be noted that the Sudanese president received the Ethiopian ambassador yesterday for 3 and ½ hours for this purpose. This is the first meeting following the recent restoration of relations between the two countries.

PRESS COMMENTS ON CABINET SESSION, CARTER'S ASWAN TALKS

Morning Editorials

TA040720Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Jan 78 TA

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] Most papers deal with the cabinet meeting held yesterday and with the meeting between President Carter and President as-Sadat to be held today. HAZOFE says that, although the United States plays an important role in the political moves in the region, the differences between the positions should be settled by the parties concerned without external pressures and without diktat.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that if the prime minister could completely free himslef from his platform, he could then lift the fog surrounding the future of Judaea and Samaria and choose a compromise that would guarantee a safe border.

HAMODI'A believes that we should wait and see how the discussions in Aswan today will end. It is highly probable that the discussions expected in the political and military committees will be decided there, despite Begin's request from the Egyptian president not to ask the United States to exert pressure on Israel.

OMER writes that Egypt should understand that As-Sadat's dramatic step, the visit in Jerusalem, was the beginning of an era in which both parties should make mutual concessions. The big Israeli concession in the Sinai Peninsula requires a concession by Egypt regarding Judaea and Samaria. The postponement of the establishment of a Palestinian state is no concession.

SHE'ARIM is of the opinion that elementary logic requires that the question of establishing settlements should be discussed only in relation to territory controlled by Israel. The paper adds that it is certain that this simple thing is accepted by the Israeli ministers, too.

UJ KELET writes that the Egyptian president's attempt to secure external pressure on Israel is incompatible with the contacts established between Israel and Egypt, thanks to President as-Sadat and Prime Minister Begin.

VIATA NOASTRA hopes the Israeli Government will find a way to react to proposals whose objective is to force Israel into a total withdrawal and into agreeing to the establishment of a Palestinian state. The Israeli Government should take care that these proposals do not become a political line accepted by Washington.

NASHA STRANA writes that the anticipation and keen interest created in the region about the Aswan meeting should surprise no one, since both Egypt and Israel understand that the fate of the talks between them will quite considerably depend on the results of President Carter's talks in Egypt.

Afternoon Press

TA041012Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Jan 78 TA

[Text] MA'ARIV writes about the meeting between the Egyptian and U.S. presidents in Aswan. The paper says that President Carter has resumed the role of mediator which was generally mistakenly thought to have been taken away from him. President Carter is also making up to President as-Sadat for the blow he dealt As-Sadat by going to Geneva to meet Al-Asad, whereas As-Sadat had to travel to Washington to meet him.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT says As-Sadat wants to make peace with us on the basis of total withdrawal to the 1967 lines on all fronts. This would mean unconditional surrender to those whom we defeated in all five wars, a demand unprecedented in the history of the world. The paper believes that thus far we have given in only to our southern neighbor, and now we are also being asked to give in to our eastern and northern neighbors.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON 3 JANUARY CABINET SESSION

TA031636Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 3 Jan 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The cabinet met today as a ministerial committee for security affairs and what can be publicized from its debates is brought to us from Jerusalem by our political correspondent Yosi La'or:

[La'or--live] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said at the end of the cabinet session, in reply to a question from one of the correspondents, that there was a reason for the fact that today's session was described as a ministerial committee for security affairs. Thus a curtain was lowered on today's debate and its details are secret by law. Why? In the capital there are those who believe the prime minister wanted to consult with the full cabinet on the detailed tactics for the continuation of the negotiations and, on the other hand, wanted to make sure that operative details would not be made public knowledge. So there is no official answer to the question about the composition of the Israeli delegations [for the talks with Egypt].

Opinions were heard this morning from authorized sources that Minister Ari'el Sharon will indeed particpate on the delegation to the political committee. The Ministry of Defense representative at that delegation will almost certainly be Deputy Minister Mordekhay Zippori.

Did the cabinet today debate the fleshing-out of settlement in Judaea and Samaria and the Rafah salient? There is no official answer to this either, but the prime minister said, in reply to this question, that the cabinet was examining all aspects of the negotiations.

It was also said that, contrary to what was reported today, Israel has not recently sent any messages to President Carter. Jerusalem also has not yet received any authorized report on the Carter-Husayn talks. It is expected that the U.S. report will be given only after the meeting tomorrow in Aswan.

And, finally, no agenda has yet been agreed on for the political committee's discussions. It is assumed in the capital that the first session, or sessions, will be devoted to a discussion of the agenda and to a summing up of the issues the sides agree to discuss.

Delegates Not Decided

TA031759Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The composition of the Israeli delegations on the Joint Israeli-Egyptian committees has not yet been determined. Our political correspondent Shalom Qital learned that the reason for the delay stems from a disagreement over who should be on the committees. The major point of disagreement concerns the proposal to make Ari'el Sharon Dayan's deputy on the political committee. The coalition partners in the government also want a candidate of their own on this committee.

Differences on Settlement Policy

TA032030Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Jan 78 TA

[Excerpts] Our political correspondent reports that differences of opinion have emerged among cabinet ministers with regard to the cabinet's settlement programs beyond the green line. Ministers from the DMC and the Liberals expressed opposition to the settlement programs which had been updated after the cabinet's peace program had been prepared. Our correspondent reports that they expressed the fear that such programs might harm the negotiations between Israel and Egypt.

The cabinet met in a special session today and discussed various topics for 5 hours. Minister Ari'el Sharon, who is the chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs, arrived at the session with large topographical maps.

Thus there are differences of opinion, as we heard, in the cabinet--on the cabinet's settlement program--in view of the peace plans and the contacts [with Egypt] and the plans of the Gush Emunim Shilo nucleus to settle within the next few days in a new settlement site in Samaria. The plan to settle this nucleus in Shilo today has been, for the moment, postponed by the military government. Our correspondent on settlement affairs, Yigal Goren, has been informed that the nucleus members who have been in a temporary camp in 'Ofra since the Succot holiday were informed last night that they would leave this morning with their equipment for the site of the archeological diggings at Shilo. The intention was to incorporate the nucleus members in the excavation work going on there, which is under the direction of Dr Ze'ev Yevi. However, this morning members of the military government announced that the program had been postponed and it will apparently be carried out within the next few days.

Last night it became known that the Gush Emunim Qarney Shomron nucleus, which has spent the last few months in a temporary camp in Elon More, has begun to settle in Qarney Shomron. Our correspondent adds that another Gush Emunim nucleus, Heres, which is at the moment in a temporary camp in Pe'erim, is waiting for authorization to settle. Ten Gush Emunim nuclei have settled in Samaria since the Succot holiday.

REPORTAGE CONTINUES ON SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENTS

Dayan, Sharon Remarks

TA012017Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Jan 78 TA

[Text] About 3,000 people gathered today in Moshav Sadot, in the Rafah salient, for a rally to protest the cabinet's peace plan. Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan told those gathered there that the nation in Israel supported the cabinet program, as it had emerged from the voting in the Knesset. If, because of the settlers' opposition to the program, peace were not achieved, Dayan said, the nation would not support the salient's settlers. Our correspondent has been informed that some of the settlers are organizing toward the possibility of leaving the settlements. Our correspondent Yig'al Goren was at the rally in Moshav Sadot. [begin videotape]

[Goren] It is a hard blow, Yosi Mas, the chairman of the action committee of the salient settlements, said. However, we have made this place blossom with our bodes and we will defend it with our bodies. The many speakers sharply condemned the cabinet program for the Rafah salient. I have never renounced one soldier from the area, Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon said, and I have no intention of renouncing even one person in these settlements.

[Sharon] There is no question here of whether we are with you or with the cabinet, there is no room for that question. The cabinent is with you. That is the answer. [applause] The attempt to present the Israeli peace plan as a renuniciation of the settlements or a betrayal of their inhabitants is grave and devoid of truth.

[Dayan] This proposal was put forward not only before the cabinent, where it was accepted unanimously, but also before the Knesset, and, apart from RAKAH and another two or three members--I know that there were nine or eight against--nobody voted against it, against this proposal which says that the sovereignty here will be that of Egypt. The nation of Israel has no other force which will settle here except for you. There is nobody else to accomplish this mission apart from you and your children and your women, physically. The nation of Israel and the cabinent of Israel can be together with you, but it cannot take your place. I believe that it is not only possible to take this path, but that we have to take this path.

[unidentified female settler] What Dayan asked of us just now--he explained that it was of prime importance that we should stay here because the IDF cannot sit here, that is, that we and our children should be the State of Israel's first line and [word indistinct] the 1967 borders if war breaks out--under these conditions, we are not prepared to remain here. We want peace. We are the wives of husbands who are reserve soldiers.

[Goren] What do you mean by saying that you will not stay here?

[settler] We, very simply, will not be an obstacle to peace. We, with the whole nation of Israel, want peace. There are secret decisions by oshavim that if Egyptian sovereignty is imposed here, we will, very simply, ask the State of Israel to give us new moshavim within the boundaries of the 1967 borders, and we will not be an obstacle to peace. [end videotape]

IDF Radio Report

TA011703Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 1 Jan 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpts] From Jerusalem we move toward the sea and the Negev. We have never in the past proposed imposing Israeli sovereignty over the Rafah salient. If peace is made with Egypt, then we are not transferring sovereignty over this region to Egypt; we are simply leaving it as it was.

These remarks were made today by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan at the rally of sympathy of the settlement movements with the Rafah salient and Sinai settlers. Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon, who also spoke, said in the name of the prime minister that the IDF would guarantee the settlements which would be under Egyptian sovereignty, not only for 5 years, but forever. From Moshav Sadot, in the Rafah salient, our correspondent Avi Barzilay is on the telephone:

[Barzilay] Thousands of settlers came today to identify with the struggle of the Rafah salient settlements against the imposition of Egyptian sovereignty over them in the context of a peace settlement with Egypt. [begin recording]

[Sharon] I want to tell you something which the prime minister asked me to tell you. I saw him a few minutes before I left to come here to the rally. I simply want to tell you the following things: The report that the IDF will guarantee the settlements for only 5 years is not correct. The Defense Force will guarantee the settlements forever. This is the cabinet's decision. [end recording]

[Barzilay] Ari'el Sharon, the Minister of Agriculture. Heckling and demonstrative outbursts by those present proved that they were not satisfied with Ari'el Saron's remarks. Will there be Egyptian sovereignty here, was the repeated question. The reply, as I said, which could satisfy the questioners, was not given. [begin recording]

[Sharon] Concern is understandable and legitimate. But I would advise you, instead of standing here and hurling accusations--most of which are groundless--I, in your place, would occupy myself here with discussing ways to speed the momentum, and, to Norman Silber [not further identified]: Instead of expressing doubts, fine, get up and move into your houses quicker, to not wait until they complete the lawns, all the paths--you have [word indistinct] come here sooner. Nobody is stopping you. [end recording]

[Barzilay] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who was the last to speak, said what he had to say with emotion, arguing with Aharon Yadlin, who had spoken previously, in the name of the Negev settlers. [begin recording]

[Dayan] We have never even once proposed imposing Israeli sovereignty over the Rafah salient, for all these years. [heckling from audience] Not true? There were those like you, possibly, even more so, in those cabinents. What is not true? When did you find this out? [heckling from audience] Right, and I, too, know that is right. Today the Rafah salient is not under Israeli sovereignty. Today the Rafah salient is not in the State of Israel, and yesterday it was not, and Sharm ash-Shaykh is not. Apart from east Jerusalem, we have not applied Israeli law and we have not annexed [word indistinct], neither in the period of the national unity cabinet, when Begin was in it, nor during the time of Eshkol and not in Golda Meir's time nor in Rabin's time. We did not apply, we did not annex, we did not impose Israeli sovereignty. And now we are not giving back the sovereignty to Egypt or handing the sovereignty over to Egypt, we are leaving the sovereignty which we did not take. [end recording]

Dayan Quoted Further

TA012030Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Our correspondent has been informed that, at a meeting between the foreign minister and representatives of settlements in the Rafah salient after the rally, Dayan said that the campaign they were waging for public opinion would not help them and that, in his opinion, they should work to strengthen settlements in the area and establish more settlements and reinforce existing settlements.

The director general of the Ministry of Agriculture said that his ministry was continuing to develop and establish the settlements of the Rafah salient at the planned pace. The director general, Mr Abraham Ben-Me'ir, added that his ministry was not preparing itself for any possibility of paying compensation or providing another site for those leaving.

Our correspondent 'Uzzi Birman reports that the directors of the Vulcani Institute this morning authorized a special budget of 8 million Israeli pounds for a team dealing with the seach for agricultural solutions for the Rafah salient settlers.

Begin Promises Government Aid

TA022012Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Begin said this evening that the government will provide all the resources required to maintain the settlement momentum in the Rafah approaches and other regions. In a meeting the prime minister held with the representatives of Herut-Betar settlements, he called on them to join the task of increasing settlement in the Rafah approaches.

Our correspondent adds that the Herut-Betar movement is considering the establishment of new settlements in the Rafah approaches in the near future.

W. Bank Settlements Reviewed

TA031109Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 3 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Excerpt] According to reliable sources, proposals regarding rural settlement activities in the West Bank have recently been raised at senior governmental levels.

The proposals concern the strengthening of existing settlements and are based on a understanding reached between Israel and the U.S. administration about fleshing-out existing settlements.

The allocation of funds to implement projects to consolidate existing settlements in the Rafah approaches was also discussed recently.

New Settlements Without Publicity

TA041133Y Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 4 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By HAZOFE correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] New settlements will be set up secretly, without publicity, in order not to harm the peace momentum. This was decided at a political conference held in Jerusalem yesterday.

At the conference several personages, among whom were cabinet members, proposed that no settlements be established at least during the period of negotiations.

Political circles said yesterday that Israel had transmitted a message to President Carter about there being no cause for the exertion of pressure on Israel as requested by Egypt. The prime minister's remarks on this matter, after the cabinet meeting, agree with the antipressure position of the government.

In the negotiations Egypt may present a demand that Israel recognize Palestinian sovereignty over Judaea and Samaria in principle, without having to implement it immediately. This will be one of the problems with which the government will have to deal.

PLO THREATS BREAK UP NABULUS DELEGATION TO EGYPT

TA031807Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The delegation from Nabulus that intended to leave for Cairo to express support for President as-Sadat has broken up because of PLO threats.

Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that in the beginning the delegation members received courteously phrased letters in which they were asked to consult the PLO before they departed for Cairo. Later letters were worded in sharper language, and the property of some of the delegation members was damaged.

The head of the delegation, 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Faris, has left for Amman and it is not known when he will return. The delegation was put together about a month ago but never did leave for Egypt.

SECURITY FORCES UNCOVER WEST BANK TERRORISTS

TA031902Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Jan 78 TA

[Text] An IDF spokesman disclosed today that security forces have lately uncovered five terrorist groups in Judaea and Samaria. So far, 31 people have been arrested.

The announcement said that one group entered from Jordan and was caught after a chase near Kibbutz Na'aran in the vicinity of Jericho about a month and a half ago. Another group consisting of four people, two of whom were women, and belonging to Fatah was uncovered following an explosion in an apartment building in the Christian quarter in east Jerusalem about 2 months ago. The three other groups were discovered in Janin and its environs.

Further Report

TA032124Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 3 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The ITIM Jerusalem correspondent reports that one of the terrorist squads whose discovery was reported this evening intended to blow up a train on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem line. The four squad members, all Fatah members, were seized after a large explosive charge went off while they were preparing it in an apartment in the Christian quarter of the old city in Jerusalem. The charge was in a suitcase and the squad members intended to place it on a train in a station in Bet Shemesh. In the explosion one young member of the squad was killed, another was seriously injured and two women, teachers by profession, were injured, but not seriously.

The ITIM correspondent adds that another five terrorists, whose capture was also reported this evening, were taken immediately after they crossed the Jordan River 2 days before President as-Sadat's arrival in Israel.

U.S. OIL COMPANY ASKED TO BE READY TO STOP DRILLING

NC311239Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 31 Dec 77 NC

[Text] Our correspondent Yosi Melman has learned that the U.S. State Department recently informed the U.S. Neptune Company, which is drilling for oil in At-Tur area in the Gulf of Suez, to be prepared to stop its drilling operations the moment it is asked to do so. Our correspondent stresses that the State Department statement speaks only about a possibility and does not give a date or describe a specific situation requiring the ending of the drilling operations. The State Department statement came against the background of the negotiations between Israel and Egypt and in view of the possibility that a settlement would be reached between the two countries under which the area would be returned to Egyptian sovereignty.

Energy Minister Yizhaq Mod'i, asked to comment on the report, said that he knows nothing about such a State Department statement. Representatives of the Neptune Company in Israel refused to confirm or deny the report.

DAYAN ANTICIPATES PROLONGED NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT

TA301212Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Dec 77 p 1 TA

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan has said that he expects negotiations with Egypt to be prolonged, lasting many months. He made these remarks to a limited forum.

The foreign minister also said that in his opinion the chances for Jordan's joining the political negotiations at this stage have declined due to its vehement opposition to the plan for self-rule for residents in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

Nevertheless, an effort will be made, especially on the part of the United States and Egypt, to persuade Jordan to join the talks.

In addition to Israeli and Egyptian representatives, the commander of the UN forces in the region, Ensio Siilasvuo, and U.S. Secretary of State Vance will take part in the talks of the political committee in Jerusalem.

Vance will attend only the initial meetings of the committee and will leave his assistant, Alfred Atherton.

The foreign minister is now setting up a special team of officials and experts headed by the Foreign Ministry director general, Efrayim 'Evron, and the Foreign Ministry legal adviser, Me'ir Rosenne.

DAVAR: EGYPT NOT OPPOSED TO DEMILITARIZED SINAI

TA300937Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Dec 77 p 2 TA

[By DAVAR military correspondent]

[Text] Egypt did not express opposition to the demilitarization of the Sinai after the IDF evacuates it following a peace agreement. In talks between Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Egyptian War Minister al-Jamasi in Alexandria and Ismailia, Al-Jamasi did not express opposition to demilitarization in the Sinai.

Authoritative Israeli sources told DAVAR's correspondent yesterday that in the talks between Weizman and Al-Jamasi there were grave points of dispute but that the demilitarization of the Sinai was not one of them. It transpired that the main disputed issues concerned Israel's demand to operate two air force bases in the Sinai and the fate of the Israeli settlements beyond the green line, especially those in the Rafah approaches and in northern Sinai. It was learned from the sources that it appears possible that Israel and Egypt will reach an understanding on the matter of the Sharm ash-Shaykh region. Another disputed issue is the length of time of the two-stage IDF evacuation. The Egyptians demanded that the evacuation be completed in 18 months while Israel agreed to evacuate the IDF forces from Sinai in 3 years following the signing of a peace agreement.

These issues and others, the details of which have not yet been discussed or regarding which there is yet no agreement, will be discussed in the military committee headed by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Egyptian War Minister General al-Jamasi. 'Ezer Weizman is now working out the Israeli proposals and preparing for the trip to Cairo for the opening of the discussions of the military committee to begin apparently on 15 January.

BARBARA WALTERS INTERVIEWS SHAH ON MIDEAST PROBLEMS

LD031540Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The shah received Barbara Walters, special correspondent of the American ABC network, on 31 December at Sa'dabad Palace and answered her questions.

At the outset, Barbara Walters asked: Your Majesty, your knowledge about the Middle East is important to many people. Can you give your views, particularly about an independent Palestine, and say whether you would agree to autonomy for the people of the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip?

The shah said: I believe we should find a formula together with a form of supervision for this issue so that the people of this area can express their views.

It was asked: Do you think that an independent Palestine should come into existence?

The shah said: I am very cautious about this. I believe in great care and discretion regarding such an issue.

It was asked: Do you know any better way toward a solution?

The shah said: The better way toward a solution is for the people of Palestine to be able to decide themselves and to have a link with Jordan.

It was asked: Your Majesty, one of the important issues is the right of repatriation for those Palestinians who do not live in the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip, such as the Palestinians of Lebanon. Israeli Prime Minister Begin believes that these individuals should remain in Lebanon and be absorbed by this country. What is your view on this?

The shah said: This would drag Lebanon to ruin.

It was asked: Then you think that they should return to the West Bank and settle in this area as their (?homeland)?

The shah said: Of course, if they wish to, but the issue is this: What size population can the West Bank absorb?

It was asked: So what is the answer to this question?

The shah said: I do not know.

It was asked: Did you have any personal contact with Mr Begin or President as-Sadat?

The shah said: Since Mr Begin announced his latest proposals some days ago, I have had no contact.

It was asked: What do you say about these proposals?

The shah said: I do not imagine they are practicable.

It was asked: Why not?

The shah said: They are very tough.

It was asked: Your Majesty, what do you mean by very tough?

The shah said: They are too tough for the other side to accept; they have all rejected them.

It was asked: Your Majesty, did you talk to His Majesty King Husayn today?

The shah said: Not today, but he will stay in Teheran for a few more days.

It was asked: Can you say what his view is: Will he join the Middle East talks?

The shah said: They did not let him join the talks.

It was asked: Who did not let him?

The shah said: Nobody let him. What role could he have in this respect?

It was asked: Had he been inclined, he could have joined these talks?

The shah said: If he joins the talks, what could he say?

The ABC correspondent asked: Could you explain your feeling about the West Bank?

The shah said King Husayn could have explained his feelings in the capital (?of his own) country in this respect. The question is this: What is the role of this monarch? Give him a role and you will then see whether or not he will join the talks.

It was asked: Your Majesty, is it possible to clarify this point a little further. I am not sure that I have grasped your point.

The shah said: You see that the Arab countries took several decisions in Rabat. With these decisions, no further role remains for King Husayn to fulfill, so what measure do you expect him to take?

It was asked: Do you imagine that he could fulfill a more important role and bring about a change in the future?

The shah said: I hope he will play a more important role and that then everybody would accept this reality. He is a responsible person.

It was asked: In Your Majesty's view, should King Husayn undertake to represent the Palestinians and not Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO?

The shah said: At least King Husayn is the person who can represent a land as part of Jordan, I mean the West Bank of the Jordan.

The correspondent asked: Your Majesty, reports have been published about a trip to Iran by Moshe Dayan, Israeli foreign minister, for talks with you. Can you clarify whether these reports are true or false?

The shah said: Various reports are being published nowadays. If we wanted to express an opinion about these reports, we would have issued a statement in our own way.

It was asked: Is there any plan in existence for Dayan to visit Iran for talks with Your Majesty?

The shah said: At present no, but we are carefully following changes in the situation in the Middle East. For although we are not a part of it, this area is very close to us.

It was asked: How do you see your own role in the Middle East peace talks?

The shah said: There is no definite role but I personally try to be useful if I can.

The correspondent asked: Your Majesty, Senator Jackson's committee recently conducted a study whose results were made public about 10 days ago. This report concluded that large quantities of arms have been sold to Iran. Therefore, if a radical government were to emerge in Saudi Arabia, could Iran take action in the capacity of America's representative?

The shah said: Yes, I saw this report. It was undoubtedly very exaggerated. But it is official policy that we will not withhold help from any country in the area which asks us for it--but only as long as the country concerned wishes.

It was asked: Has Iran any anxiety concerning the Saudi Arabian Government? Does Your Majesty see any sign of change?

The shah said: No, not really. But subversive and negative elements are [word indistinct] everywhere. Everywhere these elements are trying to cause harm. All the trouble-making and irresponsible elements are in contact with each other in some way. Every country should therefore expect trouble from these elements.

It was asked: Your Majesty, do you buy arms from America so that you can thereby defend our viewpoints?

The shah said: I do not get your point precisely. If you mean that we are each other's allies, I can say yes. We are each other's allies.

It was asked: Your Majesty, what subject would you like most to discuss with the U.S. President during his stay in Teheran?

The shah said: We have held our talks. I prefer that President Carter himself express an opinion about the talks. For after all, the U.S. President is the guest of this country.

The correspondent asked: It is the eve of the Christian new year. Can you express your general view about the situation in the coming year? Will we be approaching a good year? Will it be a year of peace? What is your view about the coming year?

The shah said: My hope is always for a peaceful year. I now have some experience. I know that peace cannot be attained through a weakness, and I am quite sure about this. In view of my past experience, I have arrived at the conclusion that good intentions are all important. I also have respect for people who do not bow down before difficulties.

It was asked: With Your Majesty's permission, I wish to return to the Middle East issue. In Your Majesty's view, who is less flexible, Begin or As-Sadat?

The shah said: From what has been published so far, it can be seen that Israeli Prime Minister Begin has shown less flexibility.

It was asked: Then you think that President as-Sadat has made more concessions.

The shah said: Yes, that is so.

The ABC correspondent said: Your Majesty, I thank you for this interview.

JORDAN'S KING HUSAYN LEAVES TEHERAN FOR KUWAIT

LD031054Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD

[Text] King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who had arrived in Iran last Friday at the invitation of the shah, left Teheran at 1010 today. He was seen off by the shah at Mehrabad Airport.

During his 5-day unofficial visit to Iran, King Husayn met with the shah and also met and held talks with U.S. President Jimmy Carter during the latter's visit to Teheran.

After leaving Teheran, King Husayn of Jordan today arrived in Kuwait to express condolences on the death of Shaykh Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah, ruler of Kuwait, to Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, the new ruler of this country.

PAKISTAN'S GENERAL HAQ ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

LD022346Y Teheran PARS in English 2315 GMT 2 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--The chief martial law administrator of Pakistan, General Ziaul Haq, arrived in Teheran at the head of a high-ranking delegation for a short visit this afternoon. He was greeted at Mehrabad Airport by the minister of the Imperial Court, Amir-Abas Hoveyda, the grand master of ceremonies at the Imperial Court, Amir Aslan Afshar, the Pakistani ambassador to the Imperial Court, Ghiasuddin Ahmed, and a number of other dignitaries.

Received by Shah

LD031100Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD

[Text] At noon today the shah received Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, chief martial law administrator of Pakistan, at Niavaran Palace. General Ziaul Haq had a private lunch with the shah. The Pakistani chief martial law administrator will leave Teheran this afternoon.

Concludes Visit

LD031330Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1300 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, chief martial law administrator of Pakistan, left Teheran at 1600 today after talks with the shah. He was seen off with military honors at Mehrabad Airport by Mr Amir-Abas Hoveyda, Imperial Court minister, a number of high-ranking officials and a group of ambassadors of Islamic countries to the Imperial Court. This was General Ziaul Haq's third trip to Iran since coming to power. A delegation of high-ranking Pakistani officials accompanied the Pakistani chief martial law administrator, who arrived in Teheran last night.

ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS IN TEHERAN REPORTED

LD311709Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 31 Dec 77 LD

[Text] Groups of demonstrators held anti-American rallies this morning in front of the U.S. Embassy, at the Iranian-American agroindustrial center and in two other places in Teheran. The demonstrators smashed the windows of the Iranian-American agroindustrial center. According to news agency reports, those taking part in the anti-American demonstrations did not exceed 100 people.

INDIA

REDDY SPEAKS AT 2 JAN BANQUET HONORING CARTER

BK031007Y Delhi ISI in English 0832 GMT 3 Jan 78 BK

[Excerpt] The president of India, N. Sanjeeva Reddy, and the U.S. President, Jimmy Carter, today underlined the irrevocable commitment of both the countries to democracy, the preservation of basic human rights and moral and spiritual values, reports SAMACHAR.

At a banquet held in honour of Carter and Mrs Rosalynn Carter January 2 night at Rashtrapati Bhavan they also urged that India and the United States should jointly endeavour towards ensuring world peace and building a just international economic order. Reddy said that his government was determined to effect socioeconomic reforms only through democratic methods, though this might be slow and sometimes invite criticism.

Carter, in his reply to the toast proposed by Reddy, spoke of the profound influence which Gandhi's writings and his movement in India had exerted, not only on his mind but on vast sections of the American people. He recalled how Martin Luther King was inspired by Gandhi and adopted the same methods for securing the civil rights of his people.

The U.S. President said that the effusive affection shown to him by the people and the deference with which his delegation had been treated ever since his arrival had made him feel completely at home. "I did not feel that I was in an alien country or in a country whose form of government or style of functioning I do not know," he added. Following is the text [as received] of Reddy's speech:

"Proposing a toast at a banquet given by him in honour of President Carter, the president, N. Sanjeeva Reddy, said here today that the friendship between India and the United States of America goes beyond politics, economics and technology. The real cement in the relations lies in the values and the emotional involvement of the people. He observed: "The rich texture of our relationship should make it immune to misunderstanding and distrust in the future. The quality of our friendship is such that no nation which cherishes international peace and cooperation need fear its potential or suspect it of malevolence." The president added: "Our vision must be of a world which would safeguard nations in their diversity and where man may achieve social justice, dignity and fulfillment."

The following is the full text of the speech:

We are happy to have you with us this evening. My people associate America as a land of liberty and they look upon you, Mr President, as a leader who has sought to restore the relevance of moral and spiritual values. The year just ended will long be remembered in the annals of our two nations. The people of the United States of America elected you to the White House to heal the wounds of a decade of conflicts and divisions. In India, our general elections gave proof that in a democracy the will of the people is the ultimate arbiter of power.

Your visit provides the opportunity to establish closer personal contacts between the newly elected and likeminded leaders of our two countries and to strengthen the deep affinities between us. I welcome you on behalf of my people and my government. Notwithstanding the ideals which we share we have varied emphasis in our priorities and in our international preoccupations. Paradoxically, the very adherence to similar political systems has at times exaggerated our misunderstandings and blurred our affinities.

The world situation as it appears has materially changed. Many new co .. ries have attained independent naticnhood. "Detente," coexistence and even cooperation between countries with different political and social systems have come to be recognised as having an inexorable logic for our interdependent planet. Ideologies in the process of being domesticated and pluralism amongst nations is seen as a factor of stability rather than a threat to international peace. The prospect of nuclear war has given a new meaning to the search for peace on earth. Nonalignment is much less misunderstood. If there is a bipolarity today it is between the forces seeking stability and cooperation and those which seek to obstruct orderly and progressive solutions to world problems. The growing chasm between the developing and developed world may in the future lead to increasing dangerous tensions. The world of the rich and the poor face a common doom if we cannot act together to protect the earth, the air and the waters from plunder and pollution. What we have admired in the short period of your presidency is your sensitivity, not just to the problems of your own country but to the dark shadow on peace and international stability. You have made the international community aware of the rights of individuals, be they at home or in other distant lands and the responsibilities we have to uphold the common mans inherent demand for liberty, equality and justice.

Mr President, the world today commands the resources, the technology and also, I believe, the wisdom to fashion a stabler and just international order. The time has come for the United States and India along with likeminded countries to work together so that overriding narrow national interest may be persuaded to see the wisdom of making necessary adjustments and sacrifices to help establish a new international economic order. The dangerous imbalances which exist must be corrected, the spectre of poverty removed and the creeping despondency in cooperative solutions banished.

Mr President, we recognise that the role we in India can play in the resolution of international problems can only come from dynamic economic growth and the establishment of an equitable society in our own land. Our people have demonstrated the capacity to learn and to innovate, but to fulfill their modest expectations is in itself a gigantic task. Our achievements, however, give us courage and confidence. We have laid the foundations for our progress on a wide front covering principally agriculture, industry and more important the indigenisation of scientific and technological know-how. Our economy has been relieved of the endemic anxieties arising from the paucity of food production and difficulties in balance of payments. We are in the process of reviewing our priorities so that a greater share of the benefits of planned socioeconomic development reach the economically weaker section of society. We have recognised the dangers from uncontrolled urbanisation and are determined to make our villages economically resilient.

Social and economic transformation through democratic methods may at times appear slow. Certainly in a democratic setup failure attracts more attention both at home and abroad than progress actually made towards social and economic goals.

We seek neither to minimise our tasks nor conceal our failures. We are fully convinced that in the end a democracy gathers vigour from open dissent and a consensus makes for firmer foundations. What we ask of the international community and that, too, as a supplement to our own national efforts in constructive cooperation or at least a benign understanding of our endeavours.

On the wider canvas my government remains faithful to the fundamental principles of our foreign policy. The remnants of colonialism and racialism where they still exist must go. Racialism, which certainly persists in Africa in defiance of international opinion, must give way to governments representative of the majority. We believe this is no time for increasing but rather arresting and eliminating great power deployment in the hitherto tension-free areas such as the Indian Ocean. We welcome the negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on the limitations of strategic weapons and efforts to consolidate detente. Faithful to the spirit of the United Nations Charter, India will always be on the side of the peaceful resolution of international disputes. We are determined to be true to the friendships which have served our national interests. We are equally convinced that in keeping with contemporary realities we can widen and intensify our relations to mutual advantage with many countries.

In the final instance peace will remain fragile if nuclear weapons capable of such annihilative destruction are kept and multiplied. We appreciate the concern and sincerity which you have expressed at these dangers and the efforts you are making to arrest the proliferation of nuclear weapons. For our part we have unilaterally abjured the development of such means of mass destruction. But, Mr President, we hope that you will agree that the dangers of nuclear war by accident or design will remain until such time as all nations without arbitrary distinctions join in a firm commitment for the progressive reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons from all parts of the world. The challenge demands not just restraints from nonnuclear powers but pledges by the nuclear "haves" to turn away from the use of this instrument of modern science for military purposes. But in the meanwhile, must countries who have no nuclear weapons be inhibited from using nuclear science as an instrument for economic transformation? I would like to emphasise with a full sense of responsibility that India, for her part, will not indulge in the perverse use of nuclear science.

Mr President, our bilateral cooperation has been rich in range and content. My government acknowledges the debt of gratitude we owe to the United States which has provided us generous aid when we were in need. Your assistance has been an important factor in our development and in the progress towards the diversification of our economy. Of all the many-sided links between us, I would particularly like to recall that students and technologists trained in American institutions have on return grafted their acquired knowledge and skills to our national development.

(?Multifaceted) and beneficial as has been our bilateral relationship the range and sophistication has a wide scope for further development. It is for these reasons that we believe that the Indo-U.S. joint commission and its three subcommissions merit fuller encouragement and support.

The real cement to our relations goes beyond politics, economics and technology. It is in the values and emotional involvement of our people. Both for Americans and Indians, man's communion with God, tolerance and compassion towards his fellow beings are respected as the highest virtues. The present revulsion from the tensions of modern life and its unending search for material comforts has, we notice, led to a new burst of interest in our spiritual and philosophic heritage. On another plane many volunteers like your esteemed mother have built bonds of kinship between individuals and families across the oceans. This deep commitment to the things of the mind and the spirit, the sustained exchanges in the field of art, education and culture along with personal relationships make for strong but invisible bonds which are only possible between open societies.

Mr President, the rich texture of our relationship should make it immune to misunderstanding and distrust in the future. The equality of our friendship is such that no nation which cherishes international peace and cooperation need fear its potential or suspect it of malevolence.

With shared faith and complementary objectives, Mr President, the word could go forth from this ancient capital that the friendship between our two large democracies, one rich and powerful and the other underdeveloped but resurgent, is to serve the hopes and aspirations of all mankind and that your objectives are not only relevant now but will remain valid through time. Our vision must be of a world which would safeguard nations in their diversity and where man may achieve social justice, dignity and fulfillment.

It is with a sense of the historic significance of the occasion that I ask you, ladies and gentlemen, to raise your glasses--to the health of the President of the United States of America and Mrs Carter, to the high ideals and enlightened interests which bind India and the United States. [Passage omitted containing text of Carter's speech]

Press Praises Visit

BK3113447 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1050 GMT 31 Dec 77 BK

[From review of editorial comment in the Indian press]

[Text] The FREE PRESS JOURNAL has an editorial which is titled "Carter Visit." The newspaper writes that a warm and cordial welcome awaits President Carter from the government and the people of this country. There is no question that he enjoys high esteem and regard of the Indian people. To many, the liberal, open Carter administration revives memory of the Kennedy days. It is a matter of gratification for people of good will in both countries that an era of friendship and understanding between the world's two greatest democracies is slowly and steadily evolving.

The newspaper adds that it is the changed political (?concept) in this country, brought about by the epoch-making March Lok Sabha poll that has to strike a cordial note between New Delhi and Washington. The warm correspondence between President Carter and Prime Minister Morarji Desai of India covering bilateral and other issues helped to establish a personal rapport between the two leaders.

According to the FREE PRESS JOURNAL, the discussions between the American and Indian leaders are expected to cover a wide range of subjects such as big power buildup in the Indian Ocean, disarmament and West Asia.

In the words of the HINDUSTAN TIMES, President Carter's visit is a second to India by an American head of state. It comes at a time when respect for democratic norms in India is high. The paper goes on to say that after the long freeze, India-American relations have again started showing the old warmth. The inclusion of India on the itinerary of Mr Carter's first foreign visit is significant. As the President's National Security Adviser Mr Brzezinski underlined, India looms large and high in the United States' list of priorities.

In the newspaper's opinion, the ensuing India-American discussions are going to have a wider bearing. President Carter's government is appreciative of the argument that Indian friendship with the Soviet Union is necessary for geopolitical reasons and that the present nuclear nonproliferation treaty is an unequal document. Mr Brzezinski has said that the time has come for a wider American foreign policy which recognizes ideological plurality and broader political and economic systems.

The INDIAN EXPRESS observed: New Year's Day is an auspicious time to begin a friently visit. President Carter is coming on a good will-mission. He wants to establish rapport with the Indian leaders who have proclaimed genuine nonalinement to be their goal.

The ECONOMIC TIMES believes that the visit is of special importance. President Carter's proposed policy statement on the current north-south dialog is being eagerly awaited. India has been an active advocate for a fairer restructuring of the international economic order. Mr Carter's choice of India for announcing American intention or the subject should, therefore, be deemed significant.

Joint Declaration Signed

BK231037Y Delhi ISI in English 0925 GMT 3 Jan 78 BK

[Excerpt] Following is the full text of the joint declaration signed in New Delhi January 3 by President Jimmy Carter and Prime Minister Morarji Desai at the conclusion of the former's 3-day visit to India:

India and the United States of America, despite differences of history and culture, are one in the recognition that the ultimate sanction of power and of public policy rests in the respect for the dignity and well being of the individual. Regardless of race, sex, religion or social status, every human being is entitled to life and liberty, to freedom from want and without threat or coercion, to freedom of expression and worship.

We share in unwavering faith in the democratic form of government which guarantees to all citizens fundamental freedoms under law and the right to choose their representatives and determine their own future.

At the same time we believe that a cooperative and stable world order depends on the right of each people to determine its own form of government and each nation its own political, social and economic policies.

We are gratified that the process of decolonization has democratized the international state system, giving most nations for the first time an opportunity to participate in making decisions relating to international peace and cooperation.

The disparities in economic strength that exist among nations must be bridged and a more equitable international economic order fashioned if we are to secure international peace.

We recognize that broad economic development is essential for a modern state, but also that such progress is hollow if its benefits do not reach all the people.

The present day world commands scientific and technological skills to enrich the quality of life and given greater social justice within and among nations. We call on an interdependent community of nations to work together to protect and nurture the common heritage of our planet's resources and environment.

We declare that war is not an acceptable means to settle political disputes. Our countries will do their utmost to resolve disputes with others amicably and within the framework of the United Nations to help in resolving the disputes of others.

The spectre of war has hung over the world for too long. The existing stockpiles of nuclear weapons must be reduced and eventually eliminated and the danger or proliferation of nuclear weapons must be arrested. Further, every effort must be made progressively to reduce conventional arms and to redirect the productive forces [illegible] leased to the betterment of mankind. We commit ourselves to work towards these ends.

Beyond the realms of politics and economics the world today affords opportunities for freer and fuller intellectual and scientific exchanges. Freedom of ideas and the promotion of cultural and artistic interplay in a world where the mind is without fear can create an environment where tolerance and understanding can flourish.

Beyond the traditional ideas of statecraft, Indians and Americans recognise an obligation to themselves and to others that the ends can never justify the evil means. Nations, like individuals, are morally responsible for their actions.

Signed (Morarji Desai)

Prime minister of India.

Signed (Jimmy Carter)

President of the United States of America.

Concludes Visit

BK030853Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 3 Jan 78 BK

[Text] President and Mrs Carter were given an affectionate sendoff by a large distinguished gathering on their departure from New Delhi at the end of their 3-day visit. The president, Mr Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, and Mrs Reddy; the prime minister, Mr Desai; senior ministers, diplomats, the three service chiefs and senior officials were at the airport to see off the visitors. Before he boarded his Air Force 1 aircraft, President Carter inspected an interservices guard of honor. A 21-gun salute was also presented.

PAKISTAN

SOMALI PRESIDENT BARRE BEGINS OFFICIAL VISIT

BK301545Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Dec 77 BK

[Text] The president of the Somali Democratic Republic, Mohamed Siad Barre, who arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a brief friendly visit to Pakistan, held formal talks with Chief Martial Law Administrator Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq this evening. He was assisted in the talks by Foreign Minister Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre, Minister for Mineral and Water Development Mr Hussein Abd al-Qadir Qasim, Planning Commission Chairman Dr Ahmed Habib Ahmed, and President's Adviser on Economic Affairs Mr Abdurahman Nur Hersi.

Among those present on the Pakistani side were Secretary General in Chief Mr Ghulam Ishak Khan, Secretary General of Finance and Economic Coordination Mr A.G.N. Kazi, Secretary General of Foreign Affairs Mr Agha Shahi, Lt Gen Faiz Ali Chishti, Foreign Secretary Mr Shahnawaz Khan, Pakistan Ambassador in Mogadiscio Ret Maj Gen Hamza Khan and additional Secretary of Foreign Affairs Mr Naik.

Earlier, the ministers accompanying the Somali president held separate talks with the secretary general of finance and economic coordination and other secretaries connected with economic affairs and with promoting bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries.

Soon after his arrival in the federal capital, the Somali president called on President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry.

President Mohamed Siad Barre was given a warm welcome on his arrival in Islamabad. President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry and Chief Martial Law Administrator Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq welcomed him at the airport. They warmly shook hands. Among those present at the airport to greet the distinguished guest were the secretary general in chief, the secretary general of finance and economic coordination, the secretary general of foreign affairs and federal secretaries.

The chief martial law administrator is hosting a banquet in honor of President Siad Barre tonight.

Concludes Visit

LD311134Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0930 GMT 31 Dec 77 LD

[Text] President Mohamed Siad Barre of the Somali Democratic Republic left Islamabad this morning at the conclusion of his brief friendly visit to Pakistan. The Somali president, who arrived in Rawalpindi yesterday afternoon, had formal talks with the chief martial administrator, General Mohammed Ziaul Haq, last everning. The talks, which continued for about 2 hours, covered bilateral relations. Earlier, the ministers accompanying the Somali president held talks with the secretary general for finance and economic activities (?for) promoting bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries. Soon after his arrival the Somalian president called on President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry. The chief martial administrator hosted a dinner in honor of President Siad Barre last night.

HAQ RETURNS FROM KUWAIT, IRAN VISITS 3 JAN

BK031530Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Chief Martial Law Administrator Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq returned to Rawalpindi a short while ago after visits to Kuwait and Iran. In Kuwait, he offered condolences to Amir Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah on the death of Amir Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah and praised the late amir.

The chief martial law administrator stayed overnight in Teheran on the way back from Kuwait. He met with the shah of Iran for more than an hour today. The chief martial law administrator and senior members of his delegations also had lunch with the shah today.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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